JOHN BULL

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For Table of Contents see page iii. of cover.

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

Contents

The World, the Flesh, and the Devil.

John Bull's Biscuits.

Newcastle's Strange Sheriff.

The John Bull League.

The Harding's Christmas Eve.

Our Special Police Intelligence.

Imaginary Interview.

John Bull in the City.

Among the Lawyers.

John Bull's Post-cards, Letters, and Telegrams.

The Cartoon.

The Drama of To-day.

John Bull's Womenfolk.

Bull's Eyes.

John Bull's Letter Bag.

Racing Notes, etc.

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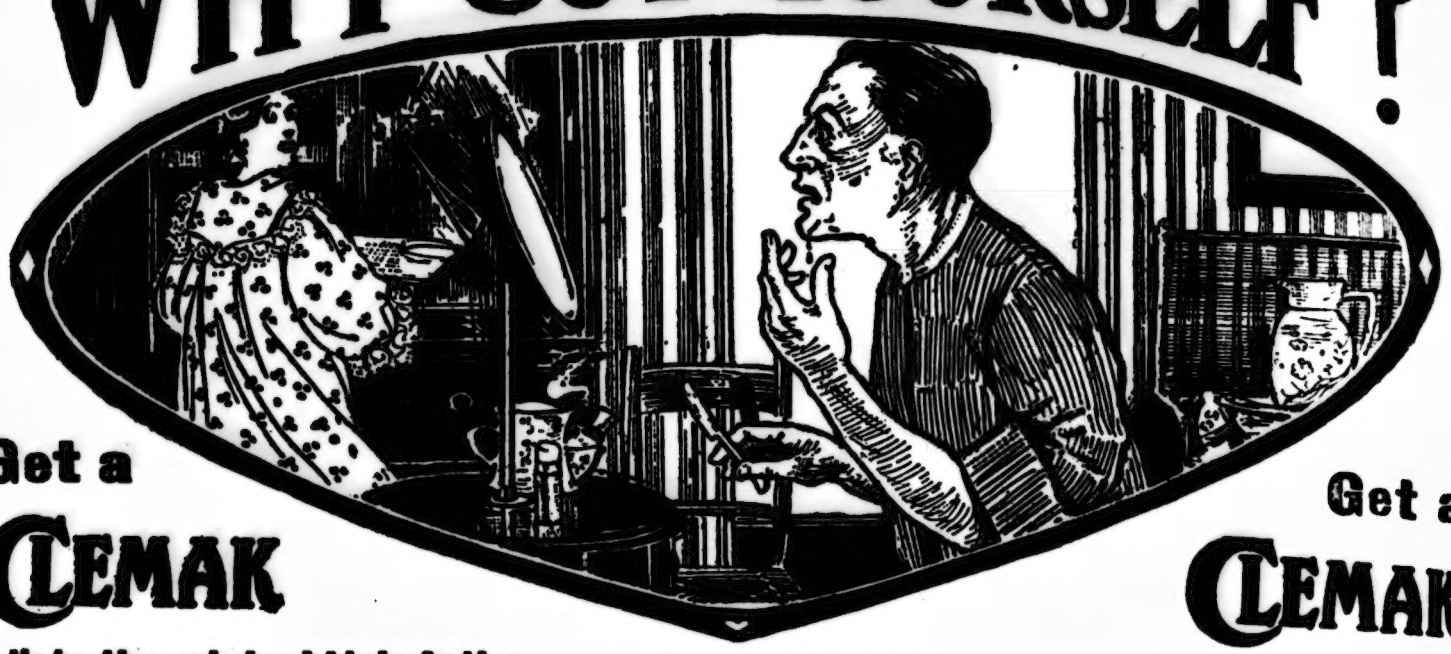

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Vol. VII. No. 186. Saturday, December 25th, 1909. One Penny.

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THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

A few days' respite for the Christmas festivities, and then into the thick of the General Election! Will any reader of this journal who is willing to assist the Editor in his fight in South Hackney kindly send his name and address to the Central Committee Rooms, 25, Church Road, Homerton? What is required are—(1) canvassers who will visit the electors and point out to them the advantage of having as their representative a man who thinks and acts for himself, in preference to a mere party hack; (2) the loan of vehicles for the conveyance of electors to the poll; (3) clerical assistance; and (4) speakers capable of expounding the questions of the day in a popular manner. Every London member of the John Bull League can render some help, if only for a short time in the evening, in one or other of the above-mentioned directions, and we feel sure we have only to make this appeal in order to obtain a ready and generous response.

No doubt it is necessary to exercise your charity with discretion. A man was recently charged at the Highgate police court with begging. The next day somebody sent a sovereign to his house, "and when the missionary called in the evening to see how the family were getting on he found everyone drunk." We all get let down in that way at times when our hearts run away with our heads. "If," said the Chairman of the Bench, "people would send money direct to the court, the missioner would see that it was properly used." Better still, let them send food instead of money.

The Glasgow licensed victualleries are to be closed all day in the holy city on New Year's Day, as no Glasgow Scotsman can be trusted to tak' a cup o' kindness for the days o' auld lang syne on that great festival. However, life is never without its consolations, even in Glasgow. Those who can afford to keep abundant nectar in the house will be at liberty to get drunk at home by way of preparing their minds for the kirk on the Sawbath; whilst the clubs and shebeens will also have a good time.

We wonder whether the Rev. W. W. Duncan, M.A., pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Worcester, will have an opportunity of turning his garden hose on the instrumentalists and carol singers who invite him to awake and salute the happy Christmas morn, for this is what he has threatened to do. Probably they will play and sing at a safe distance from his inhospitable door. What a Christian!

On one matter, at any rate, there is amity and peace among the clergy and ministers of all denominations in Hornchurch. The vicar, the Baptist parson, and the Congregational minister have jointly issued an appeal to electors to "argue temperately, to fight good-naturedly, to exercise restraint, good temper, patience, and mutual consideration." A word in season, verily how good it is! At a general election we are all more or less apt to abuse our friends and shy rotten eggs at our enemies. In Party politics there are never two sides to any question. Some of us even abuse the other fellow's godfather and godmother, question his intellectual and moral status, and almost deny his right to be on the earth. All this will be remedied when the Business Government comes in.

What a lot of originality there is in the world, to be sure! Last week we commented on "Dagonet's" plea for a Business Government—and now we have to congratulate *Reynolds's* on a splendid replica, in High Holborn, of our famous Strand poster—with a Cabinet Council substituted for the House of Commons. The wording, too, is slightly altered, the Prime Minister being made to say, "Gentlemen, if we follow *Reynolds's* we can't go wrong." But he *didn't* follow *Reynolds's*—or he would have dropped the Licensing Bill!

If the Urban Council of Dorking are going to act on the earnest conviction of Mr. Cole, one of its members, that "the morals of the town ought to be considered by the Council," we are afraid it will bite off a great deal more than it can chew, as the Amurrican citizen has it. The cause of this momentous declaration was that handbills had been issued by the proprietor of a portable theatre announcing that "on Saturday next a barrel of beer will be given away; all will have an equal chance," though, as the theatre holds about 150 people, the chance looked like being dear at twopence. The Clerk of the Council took the sensible view that "there is nothing to prevent anybody giving away anything, particularly at this season of the year"—although technically the offer amounts to a lottery. Our suggestion to the members is that they should look after their own morals—in which case they won't have much time to spare for looking after those of other people.

Those who thought that Mr. Balfour had been finally silenced by the Lord Advocate have been reckoning without our incorrigible host. It appears that somebody made a speech at Wolverhampton to the effect that the Tory Party would have lost the vote of the Trade if the House of Lords had not thrown out the Budget. Thereupon, Mr. Balfour wrote the following letter to an alleged correspondent :—

> DEAR SIR,—The statement to which you call my attention apparently emanates from Mr. Ure. It is untrue.—I remain, Yours faithfully,
>
> A. J. BALFOUR.

Neat—if not polite.

Why did not the National Anti-Vivisection Hospital receive a grant from the King's Hospital Fund? We notice that the Distribution Committee "desire to draw attention to the fact that the withholding of a grant does not necessarily imply dissatisfaction." In the case of the Cancer Hospital and the Middlesex Hospital Cancer Charity, no grant being given, it was pointed out that the Committee were glad that no assistance from the Fund was required. The only others left out were the London Fever Hospital and the Kensington and Fulham General Hospital. We should like to know whether the Committee have any special prejudices in favour of vivisection.

Mr. John Burns seems to have strange ideas about the manners and customs of the betting-ring. He said at Battersea the other day that the "Government were not bookmakers taking outside chances." No wonder this was punctuated with "laughter." The business of a penciller would scarcely be so profitable as it is if his chief occupation consisted in staking his money on animals at the longest odds procurable. It is always the way with people who condemn habits in which they don't themselves indulge.

In the resignation of Mr. Richard Bell, M.P. for Derby, the "workers" lose one of their few able and clear-minded Parliamentary representatives. The Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, as a body, have been something less than grateful to him. Apparently the Society cannot tolerate that he should exercise any independent judgment—and prefers a Parliamentary automaton.

It is strange how reporters sometimes differ. For instance, the *Morning Post* reported Mr. Burns as saying: "He had had no holiday, and he heartily believed that his staff of seven hundred officials was sick of the sight of him," whereas the *Daily Express* gave the following version: "You may think that the seven hundred people I have in my office are heartily sick of me, but I believe I may say they are heartily proud of John Burns." We are disposed in this case to back the *Express*, but if reporters are so inaccurate, how can we dare to hope for truth from historians?

For blatant drivel in the form of cartoons commend us to an illustration of "Some Romantic Phrases literally interpreted," which appeared the other day in a contemporary. Thus we have: "He took her hand," with a picture of an eccentric young man walking off with the hand of a wooden young woman severed from her body. Again: "His heart was on fire." Here a barber's block is represented, with flames and smoke issuing from his waistcoat, while an anxious female is making hypnotic passes with a watering-pot. "She swept him angrily aside," is depicted with a broom, and "Casting an eye rapidly over the parapet" affords us a glimpse of someone throwing what might be intended for an eye but is more like a piece of coal. Where does the semblance of a smile come in?

Some newspapers, too, have strange ideas of humour. It appears that a polar bear, named Barbara, recently lost two cubs at the Zoo and exhibited great distress. The *Daily Mirror* represents this as "Zoo Comedy of Barbara's Offspring," and relates with gusto how a gaping crowd "laughed at her in amused surprise." We wonder what the bear thought of the Lords of Creation.

The *Daily Express* has been giving some excellent "Advice to Canvassers." But we could not refrain from smiling over the following paragraph :—

> So, too, with personation. The canvasser will get to know whether or not a certain voter is dead or gone away, or not likely, for some reason or another to be able to come to the poll to record his vote. It would be easy for him to arrange that this vote should not be lost, that a representative of the absent voter should come in his place to record the vote, and it would be easy for him, even if he took no part in such arrangement, to turn the other eye when the pseudo-elector arrived to vote.

This is on a par with the famous advice: "Do not nail his ears to the pump." We are reminded of a story which Mr. Labouchere used to tell about the famous Middlesex Election. He observed to a man who had called for a drink at his committee rooms: "I hope, sir, that you have recorded your vote and done your duty as a citizen." "Done my duty?" was the reply, "I should jolly well think I had. I have already voted as a clergyman of the Church of England, as a Methodist minister, as a parson of the Scotch Kirk, and as a Roman Catholic priest. As soon as I have had my drink I am off to personate the Rabbi."

The Rev. R. P. McAuliffe, Curate of St. John's Church at Sevenoaks, has got himself into hot water. Preparing lads recently for confirmation he handed them some notes "to be read in the light of oral instruction." In these notes it was set forth that one of the breaches of the "Baptismal Vow" was that of listening to false teachers, the false teachers being specifically indicated as Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Baptists, Quakers, Wesleyans, and the Salvation Army. We really don't like to perceive the spiritual guides quarrelling among themselves in this way. The thoughtful outsider unnaturally decides that with religionists tearing and rending each other in this way he had better tread the narrow path to heaven "on his own."

This McAuliffe incident is not the only strange thing which has come out of Sevenoaks recently. The other Sunday morning a town councillor espied a dead horse being carried through the town in a knacker's cart. So concerned was he at the effect this awful spectacle would have on the minds of the women and children who chanced to be about at the time, that he brought the matter before the local Council, the Clerk being eventually instructed to write requesting the horse slaughterer not to move dead gee-gees on a Sunday except under cover of darkness. Next time, therefore, a horse breaks its leg on a Sunday morning, it will have to linger in pain, or be killed and left on the street till the night shades fall, when it will be taken away for conversion into English leather or German sausage. It must be comforting to the ratepayers to know that they have at least one great moral teacher and sanitary reformer amongst them.

We are glad to hear that in future married women appearing to judgment summonses will no longer be examined in open Court, but before the Registrar. But why should the benefit of this very necessary reform be withheld from spinsters or, indeed, from the ugly sex?

Has any member of the firm of Macfarlane and Co., biscuit makers, ever tried to keep a wife and child, and have the rent ready for the landlord when he calls, on thirteen shillings a week? Our reason for asking is that one of their employees, 22 years of age, three years in their employ, and working for them from seven o'clock in the morning until six o'clock at night, stated at an inquest on his child that 13s. a week was what they pay him, and that out of this sum he had "saved up for the furniture when single." The jury recorded their opinion that the wages paid were a disgrace. Certainly they do seem to be distressingly inadequate. But perhaps Messrs. Macfarlane will tell us that 2¼d. an hour is the trade union rate for making biscuits?

Time and time again we have drawn attention to the hole-and-corner methods by which public appointments are made as well as to the grossly unfair system of advertising for candidates to fill them when, in fact, there is no real vacancy. The last case of the kind we made public was the appointment of Stores Manager to the London County Council; the one now before us is from over the border. The Parish Council of Haddington advertised a vacancy for Inspector of the Poor. For this position, a cycle agent, a master baker, many clerks, a naval lieutenant, a station-master, an insurance agent, and others applied. It goes without saying, of course, that a large proportion of them were quite unsuitable. Of those qualified for the post one who went to Haddington to canvass the members of the Council "was informed by the majority of them that he need not have put himself to the trouble, as the Council had practically decided to give the post to a legal gentleman of the town. This, in fact, is what happened, though there was more show of a genuine competition at the voting than is usually made in these cases. How is it that public bodies cannot fill their appointments by a fair and square method?

There seem to be a certain number of kind, tactful, philanthropic, humanitarian, child-loving persons still remaining in our midst. One of them has sent us an anonymous post-card from Bath, describing herself as "a sensible woman," and giving her views upon our references to a child named Ison, who died of neglect in the Victoria Hospital for Children at Chelsea. In these days of false sentiment it is certainly refreshing to find a woman with the courage of her opinions, even though it be only the courage of anonymity. We, therefore, make no apology for quoting her communication:—

> I feel I must protest against your inconsistency. You boasted lately of your freedom from sentiment. Yet in alluding to the death of a dirty, squalling lump of humanity named Ison you write: "gasped out his frail little life under his coverlet." I never read more maudlin sickening sentiment than that. Anyone would be led to suppose you were his father. Who knows? In my opinion, the brat was most fortunate to be taken so early, perhaps saved from Portland Prison or the gallows. Would it not have been better for the criminals who herd in the "Living Tombs" if they had met a similar fortunate fate in their infancy? How do you know he had "a little face"? You must have been familiar with his lineaments. Avaunt with misplaced pity for *such vermin!*"

We do not quite follow the argument. Is it suggested that all sick children ought to be allowed to die of neglect and then to have the word Vermin as their only epitaph?

Who says that the bookstalls are overcrowded? We were told that when we started JOHN BULL, and now here is the *Throne*, gradually pushing its way to the front and leaving most of its pictorial rivals in the background. In the words of the Man-in-the-Street, "Good old Larry Lynx!"

We note that the accounts of Captain Scott's expedition of 1901 are not yet closed. Before closing them, perhaps Captain Scott and those responsible will remove a scandal which has just been brought to our notice. A member of the expedition (one of the "specially picked men" from the Navy) met with an accident in the Antarctic during their winter stay, and ever since his return in 1904 has been under hospital treatment. He is now an inmate of St. George's. The accident caused his being invalided from the Navy, and he has been obliged to support a wife and family on about ten shillings a week, granted temporarily from the Admiralty, and which may be withdrawn at any time. He is only twenty-seven years of age, and is probably disabled for life, by the loss of the use of an arm. Yet, though Captain Scott must be aware of these facts, nothing has been done to provide for the support of the unfortunate man and his family. We would remind the Captain, the Royal Geographical Society, and the Royal Society, who were responsible for the expedition, that the British public (who subscribed to the extent of seventy thousand pounds) expect them to fulfil their obligations, and to at once award this sufferer, at least the bonus promised to every "picked man," in addition to his princely pay of 3s. 4d. a day.

We receive a good many complaints about private acts of meanness. A case in point is that of a young Frenchman who applied for a post in the service of a Colonel in the country. He was, no doubt, perfectly within his rights in insisting that the youth should pay his own fare and provide himself with a dress suit, though the wages of £9 a year scarcely warrant extravagant expectations. But the following passage in one of the Colonel's letters strikes us as somewhat inquisitorial: "Is he a Protestant? If not, would he object to going to our Church with the cook and coming into prayers? We had a very nice French lad who did this." Surely even a footman's conscience is his own?

A student of Spiritualism writes to endorse our attitude towards the egregious Stead. He says that it is possible by the aid of mediums to recognise a departed friend or relative, but that they must not be taxed with impromptu questions on subjects whereof they may be entirely ignorant. He says that spirits are over-anxious to communicate, and even to satisfy. He adds, what we can very well believe, that much depends upon the medium. For instance, on the subject of religion, it is necessary to employ a good moral person. He mentions also that advice as to the future should not be taken seriously, as it is positively misleading. His conclusion is: "Spiritualism clearly demonstrates that there is no death, also that our spirit friends, good, bad and indifferent, are ever near."

There is something in what a Tory reader writes us:—"The Unionists are severely handicapped, in one respect, in the General Election. Every Nonconformist Church is hard at it electioneering. Their young men are trained to speak, and many of them speak effectively. The Church of England abstains from taking any part in politics; and the young men belonging to the Established Church are, as a rule, not trained orators. A Dissenter seems to be always talking; a Churchman rarely opens his mouth. The result is that on every Liberal platform you have a good supply of young and gifted speakers, and on every Unionist platform you have only elderly men—most of them with handles to their names. If there are any young Unionist orators they are not encouraged to speak, but are expected to stand aside, and listen to the elderly bores, whose dreary platitudes act as a wet blanket upon the crowds of people who hate the Budget like poison, and dread the Socialistic tendencies of the age."

A strange case, involving some strange names, was recently reported in a Sheffield paper. A Mr. Spitfire was charged with stealing a Bible from a parish church, and a Mr. Damms, the parish clerk, appeared to prosecute. The defence afforded a striking illustration of the new Socialism. The defendant pointed out that he had been a ratepayer for twenty years, and argued that as every ratepayer helps to keep the bishops and the priests and everybody downwards, he was only taking part of his own property. He further pointed out that he was a B.A. and an educated man, and he claimed to be tried by his peers, "not by a lot of vagabonds." This reflection upon the Bench seems to have prejudiced his case, for he was immediately sentenced to twenty-five days' hard labour. Thereupon he exclaimed, "Half a minute! If I come back after that time and I see you, sir, will you give me an old pair of shoes to give me a start?" Seriously, we think that a case of this kind was more suitable for medical investigation than for a summary conviction.

After all their wobbling about their meat contract the Ware Guardians have at last settled down to a resolution to make their next tenders include foreign as well as British. The inmates of our workhouses ought to be fed well, but pampering them is another story. Hundreds of thousands of people not in workhouses eat foreign meat, and, as things go, think themselves fortunate in being able to get it. It is surely absurd and wasteful that the Ware Guardians should have hitherto entered into a contract for "home-fed and home-killed" meat only. Now that they have come to a common-sense decision, we wonder whether they will manage to stick to it for a week or two?

The persons who inspired the Braintree Board of Guardians, or, at any rate, enough of them to constitute a majority of three for depriving the workhouse inmates of their usual Christmas beer, appear to have been the Essex Lodge of Good Templars. These missionaries of the pump wrote requesting the Guardians not to give any spirituous refreshment to the inmates at the Christmas festivities as the writers "believed it would be injurious to the health and morals, for such liquors had brought many of the inmates into the workhouse." The information at our disposal does not enlighten us as to whether the Essex Lodge of Good Templars forwarded with their letter a consignment of pathetic pop as a guarantee of good faith in place of the barrel of beer offered as a Christmas present by one of the Guardians; but presumably not. Doubtless, however, they will be graciously pleased to authorise a sufficient supply for the festivities to become a charge on the rates.

A Newcastle veterinary surgeon draws our attention to a case in which a Preston brute has been sentenced to the maximum of three months' imprisonment for cruelty to a donkey. This inhuman hound beat the donkey with a crutch, a chair spindle, and a "rocker" all the way from Chorley to Preston, a distance of eight miles. From head to foot the animal was a mass of bruises, and its agony was such that it had to be destroyed. "When the hide was removed the skin was found to be a mass of jelly as black as coal." Our correspondent is not quite fair in suggesting that the R.S.P.C.A. is probably paying too much attention to the sorrows of skinned eels and too little attention to towns where cruelties of this nature are of a weekly occurrence. It is not always possible for the Society to get evidence. Certainly its officers are not usually lacking in zeal. Still, as our correspondent says, he "especially refers to such towns as Newcastle-on-Tyne and North and South Shields," they will perhaps make a note, and perhaps he will assist them by offering himself for the witness-box when next he sees cruelty done to animals "with his own eyes."

We cannot understand how the Irish cause in this country can be served by such speeches as that made by "Major" McBride at the forty-second anniversary of the Manchester Martyrs at Kilkenny, fabled home of fighting cats. It was a scandalous speech; and if it represented the opinions of the Irish people, Irish Self-Government would be one of the most criminal blunders within the range of British statesmanship. For what did this "Major" say among other things? "If you prevent 500 of your countrymen from enlisting in the degraded British Army you do nearly as good work as if you shot 500 men on the field of battle." . . . "Should the Germans land in Ireland they will be received with willing hearts and strong hands, and should England be their destination, it is hoped they will find time to embark 100,000 rifles and a few score of cannon, with ammunition for the same, in this country, and twelve months later this land will be as free as God meant it should be." . . . "During the South African war the men of Kilkenny . . . were never so happy or contented as when pouring lead into the English enemy, and the next time they were at that work he hoped it would be in Ireland." There is probably not another country in the world where this man would be allowed to use such language and remain free. We don't believe any of the accredited leaders of the Irish people to-day are in sympathy with it. But the fact that it can be used without protest in an Irish gathering, that, indeed, the man who used it received a vote of thanks for it, is proof positive that a dangerous spirit is still alive in the sister isle. Will Mr. John Redmond allow it to pass unrebuked? He, at least, knows that the moderation and patience of his people in recent years is the explanation of the more friendly attitude of the English public towards their cause.

A courteous letter reaches us from Mr. William H. Barker, one of the Otley justices, with respect to our recent comments in the case of George Long, a "French polisher," who was sentenced to one month's hard labour for begging. The man received some bread and "was seen to go into an outhouse to eat it." It was this patent fact of the man's hunger which attracted the attention of the large number of our readers who sent us the report on which our remarks were based. That report does not appear to have disclosed all the facts. "The French polisher," says Mr. Barker, who was apparently one of the convicting justices, "has never done a day's work for years; his parents will have nothing to do with him, and in this neighbourhood he has been an intolerable nuisance for a long time, sleeping in people's outhouses, insulting and frightening servants at private houses, and hanging about premises suspiciously. He had been previously convicted at Leeds for begging."

We admit at once that if all this was proved *in evidence on the charge* it somewhat modifies our view of the action of Mr. Barker and his colleagues. But the charge as we read it was simply one of begging—the begging of a starving man who went into an outhouse to eat the food given to him. And to be hungry is such a terrible thing, and to get work in these days is such a difficult thing!

A West End lady asks us to give attention to the way in which foreign shoplifters apply their craft unpunished in England; and she gives instances. Will she take our word for it that if they were not convicted they were not shoplifters; like English ladies similarly charged, they were merely victims of kleptomania, one of the fashionable diseases. Mary Ann or Matilda Jane never gets it.

Let us, at this season of the year, direct the attention of our readers to the Lady Mayoress's Fund for the Poor, the operations of which are divided into three classes—namely, the relief of poor families in their homes, the finding of employment for those out of work, and the relief of the homeless poor. Every pound sent to the fund means that a pound's worth of tickets for coal, bread, meat or milk will be distributed—there being no deductions for expenses. This is the sort of fund which should be encouraged.

Canadian M.P.'s evidently read JOHN BULL. We observe that one of them has just introduced into the Federal Parliament a Bill providing that all stocks upon which no dividends are claimed shall, after six years, be transferred to the Government as trustees, and that unclaimed balances in banks shall be similarly dealt with. Surely this is one of the first measures which a Business Government should introduce!

Apropos our "Open Letter" to Mr. Haldane, which appeared in our issue of December 4th, respecting the widow of the Territorial Gunner who was killed by the explosion of a paraffin drum while in the service of his country at Bulford Camp in August last, we are pleased to know that there is a prospect of the War Office favourably considering our appeal for a pension.

We have already had our Christmas number, and, therefore, we content ourselves to-day by renewing our wishes for a merry time to all our readers. Good luck to everybody—and vote for Father Christmas!

THE JOHN BULL LEAGUE HAS ITS EYE ON—

ENGLISH CLASSICS BARRED
PUBLIC LIBRARY RULES
LIST OF AUTHORS AND BOOKS BARRED BY THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE
BOOKS RECOMMENDED BY THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE

THE JAUNDICED JACKS-IN-OFFICE WHO WISH TO DICTATE WHAT THE PUBLIC SHALL AND SHALL NOT READ.

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

NOTICE.—No more biscuits for births, deaths, or marriages, which creep into the wrong column. Much too gruesome to be funny!

OLD WOMEN.—Biscuits are uncompromisingly denied to papers alluding to "old women of both sexes." There are so many of them.

WEDDINGS.—No biscuits for bridegrooms wearing picture hats and crepe de chine. Why shouldn't they?

For the following advertisement: "Lady going abroad must sell WARDROBE: BUST 36, WAIST 24, SKIRT 42."

AN ADVERTISER IN *THE EVENING NEWS*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For replying to a correspondent: "The Rector thanks the correspondent who wrote a letter with regard to Mr. Harland. As Mr. Harland IS SO VERY ILL, *no doubt this correspondent will be* VERY GRATIFIED."

THE BURLINGTON PRIORY CHURCH PARISH MAGAZINE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For alluding to "The best BULLOCK, IRRESPECTIVE OF SEX."

THE SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "If the necessity arose, Queen Maud could COOK AND KNIT A STOCKING, SPIN AND MAKE BUTTER."

THE SCOTS' PICTORIAL
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For reporting the Rev. J. F. Reece as having said that "the health of Deganwy is so excellent that THE LAST THING THE PEOPLE DID THERE WAS TO DIE."

THE DAILY MAIL
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For announcing: "For sale, THROUGH FAILING HEALTH, *strong furniture van,"*

AN ADVERTISER IN *THE MANCHESTER GUARDIAN*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating: "I could not—or rather would not—hear, for I CLOSED MY EYES."

E. PHILLIPS OPPENHEIM, IN "MR. MARX'S SECRET."
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For announcing a Bazaar "to raise £300 towards the EXTENSION *of the debt on the Church premises."*

THE BAPTIST CHURCH, KIDDERMINSTER.
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating at a Whist Drive in the Public Hall, Forest Gate, "that he was glad no LADY WITH TROUSERS *had won a prize."*

THE MASTER OF CEREMONIES
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For reporting Sir Ernest Shackleton as having said that "there is always a strange longing that makes a man want to go AGAIN *to wild and* UNKNOWN *places."*

THE MORNING LEADER
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For the following wire: "Could race to-day. THAWING HARD."

THE CLERK OF THE COURSE, MANCHESTER.
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "the husband became very ill, suffering from spasms, grains of strychnine in the ANIMAL."

REYNOLDS'S NEWSPAPER
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "Mr. Lloyd-George at the END *of his speech burst into tears and was* UNABLE *to finish,"*

THE DAILY MIRROR
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For announcing that "Holders of tickets will be admitted half-an-hour BEFORE THE DOORS ARE THROWN OPEN."

AN ADVERTISER IN *THE YORKSHIRE EVENING POST*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

WHOLESALE BRIBERY OF PUBLIC SERVANTS.

HOW WAR OFFICE OFFICIALS EXACT "PALM OIL." AND WHY C NTRACTORS GIVE IT.

We like to think that our Public Services—Civil, Military and Naval—are incorruptible; that their members, if not very brilliant, are clean-handed. That is the general opinion, but it differs from the experience of many business men who have relations with the various Public Departments. They do not scruple to say that corruption is rampant, and that it is difficult, if not impossible, to get contracts through without the liberal use of what is known as "palm-oil." Naturally these things are not said in the market place. Those who know seldom get beyond hints and suggestive shrugs of the shoulder. There is no outspoken denunciation, because revelations on the part of contractors—*i.e.*, of the men who are behind the scenes—would mean forfeiting all chance of future business with the Departments. Moreover, in these days it would be madness for a contractor to admit that he has been a party to bribing Government officials. The Prevention of Corruption Act, 1906, is a very awkward fence to get over, though contractors do frequently brave it. saying to themselves that their competitors in business ignore it, and that they must ignore it too, and that there is not much, if any, risk in doing so. But to proclaim to all whom it may concern that they have deliberately violated it would be quite another matter. for it would be to invite the Authorities, indeed almost to compel them, to prosecute, and the punishment is anything from imprisonment with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding two years, to a fine up to £500, or both imprisonment and fine. And so it comes that week by week the Act is defied and corruption goes on. We need not waste words in dilating upon the moral aspect of the matter. It will be more to the purpose to show the procedure which is followed in the particular office we have in mind at the moment—namely, the War Office.

In contracts for work to be done at the instance of this Department there are two forms of tender. The one offers to do the work required for a lump sum, the other is what we may call the Schedule tender. In the first form there is small room for illicit dealing. It is the Schedule tender which opens the door to corruption. For example, there are a large number of Government buildings, barracks, factories, hospitals, and the like, which constantly require alterations, additions and repairs. A Schedule contract means that the contractor tenders at so much per rod for brickwork, so much per yard for plastering and concrete, so much per pound for ironwork, so much per piece for papering, so much per foot for glass, so much per hundredweight for lead, and so on. From time to time the contractor sends in requisitions for payment, upon printed forms supplied by the War Office, and here it is that the opportunity of bribing is found. Take brickwork. The price is settled by schedule. The War Office official simply certifies for quantity. The returns show the quantity of work done by the builder each particular week. They ought to be made up by the builder from his books. Instead, they are mere copies of a return sent privately to the contractor by the War Office official. The builder copies and sends his account so made up to the War Offi:e as if it were an original document prepared by him in the ordinary way. This procedure is necessary, as otherwise the War Office official would have to alter the bills to make illicit payments possible. The form as sent in by the firm is certified by the man who is a party to the fraud, and who shares the plunder. We will say that the quantity has totalled to a sum of £100 in excess of the work actually done. The official takes £20 or £30, sometimes even £50, and the firm pockets the balance. Its excuse for being a party to the fraud is that in these days prices are so cut that it is impossible to make a fair profit from the price upon the tender.

It may be said that proof of the payment of these illicit commissions is impossible. The men who take the bribes do not take them in the form of crossed cheques, which they pay into their banks; the more prudent of them will not take even Bank-notes, since it is not difficult to trace them home in the majority of cases. They take gold, which leaves no trace. But one of the most remarkable things about these illicit transactions is the carelessness with which they are carried through. Long continued immunity has induced those concerned to believe that exposure is out of the question. It is safe to say that contractors doing business with the Public Departments, and who go in for illicit payments, do so with the knowledge of many members of their staff, and yet it is rare indeed that there is exposure. But the proofs exist if only you know where to look for them. There is documentary evidence in the offices of the contractors which proves the bribing, even though it does not necessarily bring it home to particular individuals. Obviously where a firm is constantly paying away large sums of money in the illicit manner described, these payments have to appear in some sort of book and under some sort of heading. The sum paid is usually entered in this book to "Mr.——," and is certified on the margin by the partner who has sanctioned the payment. The book is shown in ordinary course to the firm's auditor, whose business is not to enquire into the nature of the payment, but only to satisfy himself that the payment has been made.

Apart from the payments which can be traced in this way, there is another method of proving by documentary evidence the truth of the allegations we are making. Every detail of the work in hand has to be set down and shown in prime cost. These Schedule contracts are paid quarterly, and when completed, the records are filed away, after being duly audited. The details worked out reach a certain total. The total ought to correspond with the cheques handed to the foreman. As a matter of fact, they do not, because they do not show the illicit payments, and the difference between the sum, as shown in the total of particulars, and that actually disbursed, is the sum that goes in bribery. Now these particulars are all in the offi:e of the firm. They remain in its archives. So. too, the copies of the forms sent in by the War Offi:e offi:ial upon which he indicates how the account is to be made up by the builder are to be found in the offi:e.

It may be said that in what appears to be a widespread system of bribery, firms must run a great risk of discovery, and in these days, when discovery involves so much, it is not at all likely that reputable contractors would run the risk. We can only say that the risk is taken, and as a matter of fact it is very real.

How far up in the Department the corruption extends, we are not prepared to say. Our own impression is that so far as the Heads of the Department are concerned, their hands are clean. The corruption exists amongst the less responsible officials, and its continuance is rendered possible, not because those immediately above them are themselves corrupt, but oftener than not, because they are simply careless or incompetent. The whole subject requires investigation by an independent committee of business men. We shall be happy to place before the Committee evidence that can leave no possible doubt as to the complicity of one leading firm of contractors in these illicit transactions, and we have no reason to suppose that this particular firm differs in practice from most of its competitors. Oh, for that Business Government!

What Is Your Number?

See page iii. of Cover.

NEWCASTLE'S STRANGE SHERIFF.

PICTURESQUE RECORD OF A DRINK REFORMER.

Mr. William Robert Armstrong, the present and 510th Sheriff of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, is, to say the least, an eccentric and impulsive individual. One night, recently, he went to bed a comparatively obscure individual, and awoke next morning to find himself, in a way, famous.

Wearing his heavy gold chain, he had gone the day previously to a little bazaar, and this is what he said :—

> The Sheriff, in the course of his remarks, mentioned that he was 510th Sheriff, and, so far as he could make out, the first teetotaler. If mayors had the courage to do what he (the speaker) had done, the Council Chamber would soon be purified On the action he had taken, Councillor Armstrong proceeded to say, he had had congratulations from all parts of the country, and he expected to receive similar messages from all parts of the British Empire, for the news had gone forth. Few of them knew what the Sheriff's room meant. It had been in the past a drinking saloon, and a disgrace to the men who had managed it. He had seen men wrecked morally and physically and sent to an early grave through the influences of the room and its contents. Men who sat in the Council Chamber to-day under the influence of drink were sneered at and pointed at, yet that was no caution or warning to them. There had been no drink in the Sheriff's room since November 9th.

The following morning a great hubbub arose. Telegrams and letters of congratulation poured in upon the brave Sheriff. A councillor from Sunderland telegraphed, "God bless you; stick to your guns." A northern Countess sent her best respects, and teetotal cranks forwarded their commendation until the Sheriff got into a glow of self-satisfaction, and frequently consulted his looking-glass in order to see if any signs of a "halo" were to be discerned about his head, whilst his family were kept busy rubbing the backs of his shoulder-blades to ascertain if wings were sprouting.

But, as luck had it, the City Council met on the day the report appeared, and the Councillors put a different complexion on the situation. About half the Council had been considering that speech *in camera*, and before the ordinary business of the meeting began, a local solicitor, who acted as spokesman for the malcontents, brought the matter forward, and received permission to go into it.

Addressing the Sheriff as though he had been sentenced to death and was just about to be led away to execution, this solicitor—who was, of course, acting in his capacity as a councillor—asked if, "before moving further," he had anything to say. The Sheriff, who had admitted the accuracy of the report, explained that he had been annoyed at certain remarks about the Sheriff's chamber made at a meeting of the unemployed.

Then the solicitor warned the Sheriff that if he did not withdraw and apologise, one-half the members of the Council would leave the room. Indeed, he plainly asked the Sheriff to leave the meeting, and, in order to facilitate business, the Sheriff, who was in an excited state, made a little speech in which he said that "it had been no disgrace to him to put that robe on, and it would be no disgrace to put it off." He then doffed his robe and chain, and the ordinary business of the Council was proceeded with.

On Wednesday (December 1st), there was another meeting of the Newcastle City Council, and the Sheriff then made the following speech, and was allowed in consequence to remain enthroned in the Sheriff's chair :

> My Lord Mayor,—Will you, sir, permit me to make a personal statement ?
>
> In the first place I must absolutely deny the charge made on Friday last in this Chamber, that I had been guilty of uttering wicked and wilful falsehoods.
>
> I may have been indiscreet, therefore, I regret exceedingly if any statement of mine has seemed to be a reflection on the Lord Mayor or any of my colleagues in the Council, and I am more than sorry if by any words of mine, I have caused pain and annoyance to anyone. I therefore, unreservedly withdraw anything that I have said that has given offence, and offer my apology to the Council

Now, we have looked up the record of this godly teetotaler, this man who has such a horror of drink and all its evil effects, this honourable gentleman who told the City Council that "he had never been a falsifier," and "was as honourable as any man in that Council chamber."

It must be remembered that he told the bazaar people that "he had seen men wrecked morally and physically and sent to an early grave through the influences of the Sheriff's room and its contents." Again, "There had been no drink in the Sheriff's room since November 9th."

It has been the privilege of our representative to pay the requisite fee of one shilling to the Magistrates' Clerk at Newcastle for the purpose of securing permission to consult the Licensing Registers and from these weighty tomes he has extracted the following entries :—

> On September 11th, 1876, the name of William Robert Armstrong (the present teetotal Sheriff of Newcastle, who has such deep detestation for drink in all its ramifications) appears as owner of the Beerhouse, 1, Argyle Street, Newcastle.
>
> In September, 1879, the licence of the Ropery Banks Hotel, Sandgate (a house which then ceased to exist), was ordered to be removed to the Beerhouse, 1, Argyle Street, known by the sign of the "Tramway Hotel." (By this transfer the licence of the "Tramway Hotel" was glorified from a mere beerhouse licence into a full licence.)
>
> William Robert Armstrong (Newcastle's teetotal Sheriff) continued to be the registered owner of the "Tramway Hotel" until November 25th, 1897 (a period of over 21 years), when Messrs. Archibald Arrol and Sons, Ltd., were registered as owners, and are still the owners.

So the Sheriff of Newcastle, who will have no hand to-day in the ruin and degradation of his colleagues on the City Council, once upon a time was not so scrupulous. He bought a house at a time when prices were low, and, after "improving" the licence, sold it at the height of the public-house boom at a handsome profit to himself. The Sheriff has learnt discretion rather late in the day.

"A SLUMP IN DUKES."

FATHER CHRISTMAS : "THEY'RE ALL MADE TO STAND UP, BUT NOBODY WANTS 'EM."

THE BRISTOL TRAMWAYS AND CARRIAGE COMPANY.

ENTERPRISE IN EXCELSIS.

The following circular has been issued to the company's employees :—

"It has come to my notice that sometimes our own employees, when, unfortunately there is a death in their family, give the order for the funeral to undertakers who have set up in opposition to the company. Certain undertakers, instead of ordering the company's horses, cars, and carriages, have purchased their own, and discontinued using the company's. There are undertakers everywhere in Bristol and suburbs who always employ the Tramways and Carriage Company's horses, cars, and carriages.

"The company's equipments are all of a superior class. The undertakers who support the company are most moderate in their charges. The following is a list of undertakers who have from time to time set up against the company, and I trust that as deaths do unfortunately overtake all families sooner or later, when bereavement does take place, our employees *will not give* their orders for the funeral to any one of the following undertakers."

Then follows a list of six firms. The company should get on in the world.

SOME CURIOUS ADVERTISEMENTS.

Wanted, all-round hand-sewn Man; constant.

Machiavelli.—Please write and explain. Old address will do.—Egyptian Priestess.

Wanted, Nursemaid to look after young baby, about 18 years.

Man wanted, to bring up a Spaniel Pup.

For Sale.—Bay Mare, 15 hands; warranted quiet in harness, or would let out weekly.

Lost.—Black Pomeranian, white on breast, three paws, and round mouth.

Widower (35), two daughters, desires correspondence with smart, lovable young lady, able to swim.

Five new 4-barrel Repeating Pistols, 22 bore; cannot repeat; to clear, 19s. 6d. each.

Matrimony.—Young Man wishes to meet respectable servants or others (about 20); genuine.

Very pretty 9-carat bracelet, set round wool; 10s. 6d. to kind home only as pet dog.

Will make pair trousers for five Norwich hens; patterns or offers.

1909 Laying Geese, some laying Ganders, for sale.

For Sale, good doctor's half-brougham.

In future our vans will call on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday except (Good Friday, Whit Monday, August Bank Holiday, and Christmas Day).

Lady recommends 2d. or single as maid.

For Sale.—Mahogany Sheridan inlaid bedroom suite.

Large reduction in our prices! Something too good to be true!

Will any author send by parcel post to Sec., British Rummage Centre, L——, old neckties, shirts, socks, etc., to be sold daily to clerks and shop-assistants?

Young Lady (Protestant) seeks situation as P.O. assistant.

Countess (genuine) will write autographs or paint beautiful floral sprays in albums for charity; autographs, 6d. only.

Girl wanted, about 71, for housework.

Motor-boat, about 8-h.p., carry 8; will sacrifice immediate purchaser.

Room, first flat, car line, suit dressmaker, or Christian woman, 2s. 6d. weekly.

On Sale, chip potato plants.

Owney.—As other half gone, is other lady mother?—J.

PARTY POLITICS.

The thoughtful man begins to think
  That England's day has passed;
That we are drifting to the brink
  Of anarchy at last.
'Tis said that Nero fiddled while
  He watched his city burn,
Just as to-day, with pleasant smile,
  Our statesmen twist and turn.
These politicians scheme and fight
  To serve their Party's ends,
Regardless of the dismal plight
  To which their country tends.
Oh! for a Patriot strong and true
  To guide our country's cause,
To lift us from this turgid stew,
  And from these harpies' claws.

Anon.

LAW GUARANTEE AND TRUST SOCIETY.

A PLEA FOR THE DISPLACED STAFF.

At the meeting of shareholders of this concern, some of the speakers expressed sympathy with the directors and others with the shareholders. But, apparently, nobody gave a thought to the unfortunate members of the staff, whose Christmas is not likely to be a very merry one. Here is what one of them says :—

> I was rather surprised to see that your double number of John Bull did not refer to the present state of affairs of the Law Guarantee and Trust Society. A few months ago you referred to it in your columns. Now it is in liquidation. I may also point out to you the disgraceful way the staff have been dealt with after sixteen years' service. They have not even been given notice, and will be sent to the gutter without a penny, and at Christmas time. What about the valuation of flats by F. J. Ronald? The mismanagement of this Society is too terrible. Mr. Turner, the Chairman, said in March there would be no call, and by the middle of May there was a £4 call. Then they gave a large dinner at the Tudor Hotel. The staff were asked to subscribe to the General Manager's present—eighty ounces of silver, flower bowls, etc. How many poor fellows need that money now—some with three and four children and invalid wives! It breaks one's heart to hear the tales of extravagance that has been indulged in by that Society now people are ruined.
>
> "One Who Has Been Ruined."

"ROLLER" COSTUMES.

A WORD OF ADVICE TO LADY SKATERS.

By One of Them.

A skating frock cannot be too simple. For those whose purses will allow it, velveteen is by far the most charming. A dress that attracted my attention very much a little while ago, in one of the smart rinks in Paris, was of mole-colour corduroy velveteen. The skirt, plain but not very *collante*; the bodice, a Russian blouse, with high collar and fastening on the left side; and a belt of the same shade suède leather; round the bottom of the skirt, and round cuffs and throat, was a band, not more than three inches wide, of black astrachan. With this little costume was worn a large toque of the velveteen, a very narrow band of astrachan encircling the base of the crown, and a white paradise plume in the front, a little to the left side. For those who have to be more economical, this little dress would look exceedingly well in serge of the moleskin shade, or any other colour, provided it be dark.

And whilst on the subject of roller skating, may I be allowed to give a little advice as regards footwear? Heels, of course, should be of the military shape, but it is also most necessary that the soles of the boots should be thick, otherwise the grip of the skate is very liable to cause a good deal of discomfort. The other day, whilst an attendant was adjusting my skates, he remarked: "Ah, miss, it is a treat to see someone with sensible soles to their boots, not brown paper, like some of the young ladies wear who come here to skate, and then complain their skates are hurting them."

FAVOURITE PLAYS OF PROMINENT PEOPLE.

By S. B. J.

Mr. Asquith.—"The House Opposite."
Mr. Churchill.—"The Whip."
Mr. "F. E."—"Smith."
Lord Milner.—"The Little Dam-ozel."
Sir T. Whittaker.—"Drink," or "The Brass Bottle."
Mr. Balfour.—"The Only Way."
Mr. Haldane.—"An Englishman's Home."
Mr. H. Gladstone.—"The Woman in the Case."
Mr. John Burns.—"The Importance of Being Earnest."
Mr. Carlyon Bellairs.—"The Second in Command."
Mr. Austen Chamberlain.—"The Orchid."
Mr. Victor Grayson.—"Feed the Brute."
Lord Lansdowne.—"What the Public Wants."

THE HARDING'S CHRISTMAS EVE.

By WALTER MOORE.

"You know how I detest that woman—how *can* you ask me to invite her?"

Mrs. Harding clenched her hands in her lap, and stiffening her figure, glared angrily at her husband.

"It's simply a matter of business, my dear," returned Mr. Harding with a deprecatory gesture; "I can't afford to offend Harris. He could do me a lot of damage in the City just now. He's rather touchy about such things, I know. He wouldn't come without his wife. In fact, I believe he would regard the suggestion as an affront."

"Well, I suppose I shall have to make myself pleasant to the creature," sighed Mrs. Harding, relaxing her attitude and assuming the orthodox expression of a social martyr. "But she tries to make herself look so absurdly young ——"

"So there will be Mr. and Mrs. Harris, Harry Lloyd——" interrupted Harding.

"*That* fool!" cried Mrs. Harding; "*surely* you do not mean to ask *him*?"

"Case of necessity, my love," responded Harding coolly. "I agree that he's a fool; but there are some fools whom it's just as well to keep in with. He's one of them. We had better ask his *fiancee* as well. He's just the sort of idiot to take it as a slight if we don't."

"What? That odious Smith girl with the oxide hair! I shall never be able to contain myself in her company." And Mrs. Harding twisted petulantly in her chair.

"We sha'n't lose by it, my dear, if we make ourselves agreeable," remarked Mr. Harding, rising from the breakfast table. "Look upon it as a matter of business. I fancy it will pay in the long run. Remember the old saying, 'A dinner lubricates business.'"

"Oh, well, I suppose you know best, John," sighed Mrs. Harding resignedly. "That will be four, then, and ourselves—six. Have you any ideas about the food?"

"Something quite plain, but good," returned Harding; "soup——"

"And fish?"

"Yes; and a pair of birds——?"

"Sweets and cheese," concluded Mrs. Harding.

"I will bring some fruit from the City," with which promise Mr. Harding kissed his wife, and hurried off to catch the morning train.

* * * * * * * *

The little dinner which occasioned the foregoing conversation had been arranged for Christmas Eve. Mr. and Mrs. Harris were the first to arrive, and were greeted by their hostess with effusive warmth.

"*So* good of you to come, dear," she said, squeezing Mrs. Harris's hand; "I declare, you are looking younger than ever! The way you carry your age is simply miraculous! I shall have to worm the secret out of you one of these days."

Before Mrs. Harris had time to make a suitable rejoinder—which she was dying to do—Harry Lloyd and Miss Gladys Smith were announced.

Mrs. Harding, her face beaming with smiles, hastened to welcome them.

"How *sweet* you are looking," she said, as she led Miss Smith towards the staircase. "I declare, directly you came in the house seemed brighter."

The interval between the arrival of the guests and the serving of dinner was short, and at the sound of the gong the noisily-chattering little party filed into the dining-room and took their seats at the gleaming and sparkling table, tastefully adorned with flowers and fruit which Mr. Harding, not forgetting his promise, had brought from the City.

There was the usual momentary lull in the conversation as the cover was lifted from the soup tureen. The steam gushed upwards and curled in savoury clouds around Mr. Harding's bald head. Its appetising odour gratified the olfactory nerves of each one present, and every eye watched with furtive expectation the rich brown liquid poured from the silver ladle into the first soup plate.

Deftly lifting it from the pile, the neat parlourmaid placed it before Mrs. Harris, who sat on Mr. Harding's right hand. No one noticed the smothered "Oh!" that issued from that lady's lips, for, with the exception of her own, which were glaring down at her plate, every eye was again following the motions of the silver ladle with its burden of rich brown, fragrant liquid.

One by one the guests were served. The placing of a soup plate before each diner was punctuated by a smothered exclamation on the part of the recipient. Mr. Harding had been too much engrossed in his task to notice this; but as he proceeded to ladle out a portion of soup for his wife, it suddenly occurred to him that the table was strangely quiet, and that none of his guests had yet attempted to taste the soup.

He looked up. Each pair of eyes was bent upon the plate beneath them. He glanced at Mrs. Harris, and followed the direction of her gaze. What on earth had come to the soup? He looked closer, amazed. There was nothing in the plate but clear water! Mr. Harding took a rapid survey of the table. In each case the rich brown soup he had served with so much satisfaction *had turned to water in the plate!*

Harding swung round savagely to the maid at his side.

"What is the meaning of this?" he roared. "How *dare* you make fools of my guests?"

In her terror Emma dropped the plate she at the moment was holding. "I didn't do it, sir," she sobbed, covering her face with her hands. "It *goes* like it."

"*Goes* like it? How *can* it go like it?" shouted Mr. Harding, beside himself with vexation. "The soup's all right in the tureen. How can it *go* like it?"

"I really do not think it is the maid's fault," interposed Mrs. Harris quietly; "the soup was quite all right when she placed it before me, but the next instant it turned to water before my eyes. It may be a very clever conjuring trick," continued Mrs. Harris, her voice acquiring a sharper intonation, "but it is not calculated to appease a healthy appetite."

"I assure you, madam, it's no trick of mine," declared Mr. Harding, wiping the perspiration from his bald crown; "can *you* suggest any explanation, my dear?"

Mr. Harding addressed the last enquiry to his wife, who, pale and rigid, had sat horror-stricken, surveying the extraordinary scene.

"S-send me s-some, dear, and I'll s-see," she stammered.

Mr. Harding carefully conveyed a brimming ladle of the rich brown soup to the plate which Emma held. As he did so he examined the liquid closely. There was no mistake about its colour, consistency, and savoury smell. It was soup—no question about it.

He watched the maid carry it to his wife and place it before her. As the plate touched the table that good lady gave utterance to a frightened scream.

"Oh!" she cried, "it has turned to water!"

"This is some infernal trick of the cook's," shouted Mr. Harding; "take it away! Take the beastly stuff away! Do you hear?"

"Ye-yes, sir," sobbed Emma, scared half out of her wits, as she quickly collected the plates and removed the tureen from before her distracted master.

During the babble of conversation that ensued—conjectures, sarcastic comments, hard laughs, and whispered observations—the fish was brought in and placed before the host. His wife had selected a fine turbot, and she strained her eyes across the table as the cover was raised, to see whether it was all that could be desired. It was a lordly fish, plump and white, and diffused a delicious odour through the room. Harding carefully carved a choice piece, not neglecting a portion of fin, for Mrs. Harris, and the same was at once placed before that lady. Her shrill scream had the effect of an explosion.

The portion of fish on Mrs. Harris's plate had changed to a piece of colourless jelly!

"I think the joke has gone quite far enough," she said severely, rising from the table. "William, please see me home at once."

Mrs. Harris, with an elaborate bow to her hostess, swept from the room, followed by her bewildered husband. Mr. Lloyd, with some scarcely intelligible remark about "beastly witchcraft, doncherknow," followed hurriedly with Miss Smith upon his arm.

Mr. and Mrs. Harding were left facing one another, pale with mingled rage, fear, and wonderment. They could hear Emma indulging in a bad fit of hysterics in the kitchen below. The sound maddened the man. He was rising from his chair to perpetrate some rash act in the domestic quarter when he became aware of the presence of a stranger. A stout, white-haired old man, with a full beard and rubicund cheeks, stood close to the door. Pointing a fat forefinger at Mr. Harding, he said, in a jolly, mellow voice—"Sit down."

Mr. Harding did not *sit* down. He simply dropped back into his chair.

"You have had a merry little repast, I see," said the stranger, his eyes twinkling under shaggy white eyebrows.

"Who the devil are you, and how *dare* you intrude in this way?" roared Mr. Harding. "Who is this man?" turning to his wife.

But Mrs. Harding had fainted, and was hanging, limp, over one arm of her chair.

"I hope you enjoyed the soup," mocked the old fellow.

The old man's face became suddenly stern.

"Remember the spirit in which you invited your guests," he said. "You are justly punished. There is no savour in a feast which is not given with goodwill. You, with you calculating selfishness, *you* changed the soup to water—*you* turned the fish to tasteless jelly; because the spirit of honest, warm-hearted hospitality was not in your breast. Beware! When next you give, give with your whole heart, or your gifts will return upon you with shame."

There was a report like a Tom Smith cracker, and the intruder was gone!

HUMAN DOCUMENT—LXXI.

AN APPEAL ON BEHALF OF A DISABLED SOLDIER.

We have received the following letter from a Manchester correspondent. He asks assistance for Hope from our readers, and it seems to us to be a case very deserving of such help:—

> Being a constant reader of John Bull for the last 12 months, and having read the Human Documents, I hope you will pardon me if I take up a few minutes of your valuable time to place a case before you in which I am greatly interested. It is the case of Corporal W. Hope, late of the Welsh Fusiliers. During his military life he served through the Cretan crisis under Major-General Chermside. He was stationed in the Citadel Barracks, Cairo, at the outbreak in the Soudan, and served under Lord Kitchener. He also served in the Hinterland in China under Major-General Gascoigne, was wounded and invalided as unfit for further service from the interior of China, a place called Shan Chueng, to the military hospital at Hong Kong, and, finally, sent home to Woolwich Hospital. From there was sent to Stonehouse Hospital, and was invalided out of the service with chronic muscular rheumatism and other complaints in April, 1902, and granted a life pension of 1s. per day. The money he saved in the Army has all gone trying to get cured. He has attended the various hospitals and doctors in Manchester without success, and now, at the age of 34, he is a complete physical wreck, unable to work, and without a home. His spine is bent, and he is unable to move his neck or turn his head. Some few months ago, when a certain "Dr." was in Manchester, supposed to be curing all kinds of similar cases, we took him to see him, and he said he could cure him if he bought one of his blood-circulating machines. We clubbed together and got one, price 37s., but it has done him no good The reason I make this appeal to you is this: Up to now. he has been able to knock along, with occasional help from friends. He is living in a small cottage, one up and one down, the two rooms have been furnished by friends He pays 2s. 6d. per week rent, and the other 4s. 6d. has gone for the necessaries of life; but now he has received notice to go, the house having been condemned as insanitary. He cannot get another under 4s. 6d., and nobody will have a cripple like him for a lodger for 7s. per week. He is in a sad plight for the New Year, and I thought perhaps some of John Bull's readers would not mind helping him financially, as they have done in other cases. It is a shame that a man who has given of his best should have no alternative but the workhouse.

HUMAN DOCUMENT.—LXIII.

With reference to the statement as to the moneys that readers of John Bull were good enough to send us for the writer of this document, which appeared in our issue of October 30th, in which it was stated that the writer had returned the moneys remitted to her because she had obtained employment and hoped to be able to do without them, and that we were holding these moneys until November 30th, since we thought it not unlikely that the employment upon which she relied might not be permanent, we have to say that in November we received a letter from the writer of the document in which she informed us that the employment had ceased, and it would be of great service to her if we sent her the money we had in hand. This we did, and in acknowledging the last payment she writes to us in a letter dated December 8th:—

> I had hoped to have been able to do without the money, but two in the family have been sick and one in addition unable to work, so that it has helped us through a very hard and trying time, and I wish to thank all those again who have so kindly helped."

We have received, on behalf of Human Document 67, 2s. from J. B. (Balham), which has been forwarded.

We have to acknowledge the following moneys on behalf of Human Document No. 69, which have been forwarded, as requested:—Anglo-Dane, 12s. 6d.; A. N. O. B., 4s.; L. H., 3s.; J. C. T., 5s.; Ichthyol, 2s.; T. F. M., 1s. 6d.; H. B. J., 5s.; "Sympathizer," 7s. 6d.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

"JOHN BULL'S" GREETINGS.

Dec. 27th.—Duke of Norfolk.
No tenth transmitter of a foolish face.—*Savage.*

Dec. 30th.—Rudyard Kipling.
I would the gods had made thee poetical.—*Shakespeare*

Dec. 31st.—Frederick Selous.
A mighty hunter before the Lord.—*Bible.*

You should study the

NEW ENDOWMENT POLICY

Of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York.

"IT PRESENTS IN A BETTER FORM than can be obtained elsewhere a method of saving money with complete safety, accompanied by a profitable rate of interest."—*Daily Telegraph.*

IT GUARANTEES that the full face value shall be payable to you in a given number of Years, or to your estate in case of your prior decease.

Also that *if you are unable to continue your payments* after the third year, The Contract will continue in force till the end of the Endowment period, in many cases, for its full face value, and will be paid without deduction of any kind in the event of your decease during that time; and further, if you survive the endowment period, A Cash Payment will be made you.

EXAMPLE (at age 40) of the options under a ten-year Endowment Policy of £1,000. All the figures are stated in the Contract, and Are Absolutely Guaranteed.

If Premiums not paid after Years in Force.	Cash available. £	Paid-up Endowment. £	Policy continued for full amount, and Cash at end of period. Yrs. Mths.	£
3	245	299	7 0	234
4	341	4 5	6 0	358
5	441	509	5 0	477
6	542	609	4 0	588
7	649	709	3 0	697
8	761	808	2 0	802
9	878	904	1 0	903

LOANS are available up to 95 per cent. of Cash Value.

IT PROVIDES also that for every year's premium you pay An Annual Cash Bonus will be declared, which can be drawn by you; used in the payment of premiums, or added to the amount of the Endowment.

CONSIDER THE CASH BONUSES PAYABLE IN 1909.

On a ten-year Endowment (at age 40) on Policies of £1,000—

Years in Force.	In Cash. £ s. d.	Or in Reversionary Additions. £ s. d.	Years in Force.	In Cash. £ s. d.	Or in Reversionary Additions. £ s. d.
1	10 16 0	13 19 0	6	17 10 0	19 13 0
2	12 3 0	15 5 0	7	18 15 0	20 9 0
3	14 0 0	17 2 0	8	20 0 0	21 5 0
4	15 2 0	17 19 0	9	21 7 0	22 0 0
5	16 6 0	18 16 0	10	22 14 0	22 14 0

Such a means of Saving for your old age cannot be surpassed.

Apply for Particulars of Plan 46 at your own age to the Head Office for the United Kingdom,

16, 17 & 18 CORNHILL, E.C. J. H. HARRISON HOGGE, General Manager.

Accumulated Funds, December, 1908, over £109,415,000.

AN INCREASE OF OVER £9,000,000 in one year.

No less than £2,277,000 was paid in Bonuses this year.

All policies issued previous to the 31st December secure the 1909 Bonus Payable in Cash in 1910.

SOLICITORS' CLERKS.

A PLEA FOR AN UNDER-PAID CLASS.

We have always wondered why so many people embark upon professions which scarcely ever lead anywhere. Can it be that ambition is entirely dead among the thousands of young men who submit themselves to hopeless drudgery for the whole term of their natural lives as solicitors' clerks? One of them recently died of starvation at the age of 78, and his widow is existing on an old-age pension of 5s. a week.

Much is expected of solicitors' clerks. They must have more than the average education, they must dress beyond their means, and they soon come to grief if they stray away one hair's breadth from the paths of integrity. Surely, such qualifications as are exacted from them deserve a better recompense than they can ever venture to expect? They work, study and hope against hope year after year without ever coming within sight of any prospect of comfort, much less independence.

At the age of 21 they may get £1 a week, and if they be so strong that they come to 30 years, they may secure the magnificent remuneration of 25s. to 30s. At this stage, if there has been no lapse of any kind, no manifestation of impatience, no human yielding to trivial temptations, their employers may begin to dangle before their eyes a vague hope that in process of time they may aspire to receive their Articles. More often than not, however, the unfortunate wretches are pronounced to be too old at 35, and they are calmly informed that their work can be done just as well by plodding youths at 10s. a week. Moreover, this statement is not without a modicum of truth. In old days, there was a certain value in the artistic excellence of engrossed documents, but now a typewriting machine is considered more practically useful.

This is the bitter cry of a discontented clerk who has favoured us with some interesting statistics. He takes an engrossing clerk at a salary of £1 or 25s. a week, and argues as follows: "Say he did only thirty folios a day at 8d. a folio, he would earn £6 a week. But he has more likely, to do fifty folios a day, and, in that case, is worth £10 a week. Managing clerks, moreover, often draw deeds and carry conveyances and transact all sorts of important business, whereby as much as £10 or £15 *a day* is easily earned.

Of course, we must remember that, without their employers, they would have little opportunity of earning anything at all. But even so, they seem to us to be abominably under-paid. Surely, it is high time that they organised themselves in a Trades Union.

"CENT. PER CENT."

A MONEY-LENDER'S CLAIM REDUCED.

In our issue of October 10th and under this head we gave the particulars of a transaction between one of our correspondents and Messrs. Seymour and Whiteman, of 32, Walbrook, whose business was afterwards taken over by Messrs. Cox and Co., of Finsbury Park. It may be remembered that our correspondent borrowed £55 on the security of a Bill of Sale on his furniture. This loan he paid off, and then borrowed a smaller sum, and at the time he wrote to us he had repaid this new loan, plus £27 15s. interest. Cox and Co. claimed from him another £52. After our article appeared, these people wrote to our correspondent saying that it was their wish to meet clients in a reasonable spirit, and they would discharge this Bill of Sale if he paid the balance of principal plus interest to date, namely £33. Our correspondent replied that he considered the Bill of Sale had been fully discharged, he having already paid off the principal and £27 15s. interest on the second loan of £42. After some further correspondence, Messrs. Cox and Co. agreed to wipe off the whole debt and costs upon the payment of another five pounds. Our correspondent has now paid this five pounds, and is quit of Cox and Co. He thinks he is indebted to us for this happy termination of his connection with them, and he has sent us a warm letter of acknowledgment.

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

See Page iii. of Cover.

FOOTBALL "COMPETITIONS."

A WARNING AGAINST "COMMISSION AGENTS."

We have received a great deal of correspondence from readers who have tried to back their football fancies in Holland and elsewhere, with the result that they have added more to their experience than to their banking accounts. As this swindle appears to be assuming large proportions, we draw attention to it, and we invite our readers to inform us how they have fared in the matter.

On December 4th, we referred to a certain F. G. Morton, of Flushing, who called upon us and told us that he had sent out no less than £3,000 in postal orders to winners in one week. A Scottish correspondent, however, wrote to us on December 3rd, stating that he had £3 2s. owing to him from Morton since November 13th. After writing three times, he was informed that Morton had received no record of the commission on the date mentioned. Our correspondent says that this is the fourth time he has been done out of his winnings in the same way by different firms, and he thinks Morton is trying his credulity too far.

A Birmingham correspondent has had transactions with a certain George Braham, of Flushing. For a long time he backed losers, but on October 30th he found some winners, and jumped for joy at the prospect of getting back a bit of his own. To his surprise, however, he received a letter from Braham, dated November 1st, as follows:—

> I am compelled to return your commission for the 30th inst. (*sic*) as it bears no time whatever on postmark, and as my rules state all letters should bear a postmark not later than 2 p.m. date of matches. I have no alternative but to return same, for which I am sorry.

Our correspondent says he can prove that he purchased his orders each week at 12 o'clock to catch the 12.15 p.m. post to be sent out from Birmingham at 1 o'clock. He had taken the envelopes to the Post Office and been informed that it bears the 1 o'clock postmark. He has written to Braham twice, pointing out this, but cannot extract a reply. We note on Braham's circular that he offers to refer prospective clients to either of his bankers, the London and South-Western or the London and Provincial. We shall be glad to hear from these banks how they come to be associated with this shady person.

A Grimsby reader complains about A. Wiseman (49, Queen Victoria Street), who is said to be identical with Robert Burrell (29, Ludgate Hill, and 738, Barking Road, Plaistow). Wiseman has sent our correspondent two postcards promising to pay £10 7s. now owing, but up to the time of writing nothing had been paid. Our correspondent has also had dealings with A. A. Burchall. Early in November he sent £6 and a coupon on which he won £29. Instead of a remittance he received a letter requesting him to renew his claim on November 27th. After a great deal of trouble he succeeded in unearthing Burchall at 92, Camberwell New Road, and extorted a cheque on the London and South-Western Bank, Vauxhall Branch, but this was returned marked "Orders not to pay," though our correspondent believes that Burchall had plenty of money in the bank at the time. Further enquiries revealed the fact that Burchall's name was Dew, and that he was a brother of the man who advertises in JOHN BULL. It is also stated that Burchall is now sending out circulars in the name of Alfred Cooper. A friend of our correspondent has also been unable to extract £12 12s. due to him from Wiseman.

A Plymouth correspondent had a winning bet with W. Wallis, of Flushing, who takes no notice of complaints but calmly continues to send his circulars.

An Edmonton correspondent sent Wallis £1 1s., and cannot even obtain £3 8s., the amount of his stake and winnings. He is now receiving almost identical circulars from Thomas Slowburn, of Flushing, and wonders if this is Wallis's latest *alias*.

Surely it is time that the Dutch police began to take some action!

THE SEEKER.

Whom seekest thou, in this dark prison?
Love is not here; for Love is risen.
Lo! yonder peak that flashes to the skies.
The jewelled rose-ray of the dawn's surprise—
Thither your way, if earnestly you seek;
And if you find not, climb a higher peak.

E. H. VISIAK.

MAY WE INVITE you to VISIT our showrooms and inspect our beautiful MODEL FLATS and SPECIMEN ROOMS?

MIDLAND FURNISHING CO., LTD.,

15, 17, 19, 21 & 23, Southampton Row, Holborn, London, W.C.

Our premises are 6 doors from the Holborn Station of the Great Northern, Piccadilly, and Brompton Railway, and the Holborn Restaurant, and 5 minutes from Oxford Circus, and are not only the most handsome, but also the largest in London.

Model Flats and Specimen Rooms.

These Model Flats are priced at £50, £100, £250, £500, and £1000. They were specially built and decorated by us, and are furnished completely at the various stated sums. Here you can see just what you want, and at just the price you are prepared to pay. Even if you are not thinking of purchasing, the schemes of decoration are an education in themselves. We also show some beautiful specimen rooms, ranging in price from £10 to £300 complete. These rooms are furnished in all styles, and the colour schemes are quite out of the ordinary.

Handsome and well-made Oak Dresser, Queen Anne style **£5 5 0**

Illustrated Guide and Catalogue Post Free.

Should you be unable to visit our Showrooms, write for our Illustrated Guide and Catalogue, which will be sent, post free upon request. This book will be found of great value to intending furnishers. Everything for the home is shown, from Kitchen to Drawing Room. Scales for complete furnishing from £29 to £750 are also shown.

Anything we sell may be purchased on our well-known

Gradual Payment System,

with no extra charge or added interest whatsoever. We extend the payments over one, two or three years without adding any interest, and we ask for no deposit. We allow 5 per cent. discount for cash.

Our General Terms are:—

Worth.	Per month.
£10	6 0
20	11 0
50	1 8 0
100	2 5 0
200	4 10 0
500	11 5 0
1,000	22 10 0
2,000	45 0 0

Any amount pro rata, or by other proportionate payments if desired.

Country Customers

will find a great advantage in dealing with the MIDLAND FURNISHING COMPANY as their fares to town are paid on all orders of £30 and upwards, and Country Orders are packed free and carriage paid.

Carpets and Linos planned and laid free.

The MIDLAND FURNISHING CO., Ltd.,

Business Hours, 9—8. Saturdays, 9—6

15-23, SOUTHAMPTON ROW, HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.

Thursdays we do NOT close early.

THE NEW MR. FAGIN.

A CONTEMPTIBLE FRAUD ON THE NEEDY.

One of the favourite fields for unscrupulous advertisers is afforded by the widespread desire of persons with small incomes to make a little extra pocket-money in their spare time. All sorts of alluring offers of £2 a week and upwards appear day by day in nearly every newspaper throughout the country. The work is usually described as almost a pleasure. It requires practically no effort. It is suited to the meanest intelligence. No wonder that the hundreds and thousands of people who find difficulty in making both ends meet should jump at such a golden opportunity! As a general rule, however, the only result of their answering the advertisements of their beguilers is that they are invited to pay a small sum for materials or make a deposit as a guarantee of good faith. Then the advertisers accumulate nice fat incomes in the way of postal orders and find no difficulty in wriggling out of their offers of handsome and regular salaries.

A bad case in point is offered by the following advertisement, which we have taken from a Cardiff paper :—

HOME employment; absolutely genuine (writing). Enclose stamped envelope.—H., c.o. Davies, Broad-street, Bristol.

One of our correspondents answered this and received a typewritten circular from H. Pym or Pyne (156, St. Michael's Hill, Bristol), stating that the work advertised "consists of copying recipes at home, and no experience is necessary, or canvassing, or outdoor work of any kind."

A preliminary P.O. for 1s. was demanded "for particulars, papers and instructions necessary for the work," the advertiser wishing to safeguard himself against sending to "many who enquire out of curiosity alone." An early reply was said to be essential "as only a few can be employed in each district." Finally, it was stated that the work is "easy and remunerative, and such that will enable you to earn money at once." The result of sending a shilling was to receive another typewritten circular :—

156, St. Michael's Hill, Bristol
29/11/09.

Dear Sir,—In reply to yours to hand, the work advertised is as follows: In the first place you insert an advertisement in a paper or papers, after the following form :—

"Laundry Glazing Secret (original). Extremely simple. Inexpensive. Gives actual appearance white china. Particulars, 7 stamps." (Follow with your name and address.)

You then send a copy of the enclosed recipe to all who order. You advertise the Indigestion Cure, thus :—

"Indigestion or Constipation. A sure remedy. Simple and effective. Particulars, 7 stamps." (Follow with name and address.)

Send a copy of recipe to all who order.

You will find there is a deal of writing to do in copying the recipes, etc., but you will also find it bring in a good income.

I can give you the name of a firm who insert small advts. in 50 papers for 3s. If you require the address, please send me a stamped post-card.

Assuming that you advertise one recipe in the 50 papers for one week and only receive one reply from each paper (a very low estimate), your profit would be as under.—

Yours faithfully, H. Pym.

To 50 applications at 7d., £1 9s. 2d.

Insert of advt., poundage and postage of postal order	s. 3	d. 1½
Postage, 50 recipes..	4	2
Stationery, say		6½
	7	10

Nett profit, £1 1s. 4d.

This was accompanied by some elementary recipes not worth the paper they were typed on. We may, therefore, sum up Mr. Pyne or Pym as a trickster who extorts shillings from the unwary on the pretext of teaching them to trick other people out of pennies.

It is claimed that Cerebos Salt is made of the best and purest materials in modern hygienic factories, and its appearance would seem to justify the statement. Owing to the special process of manufacture, it preserves always its fine, free-running properties, and is infinitely better than common salt—which becomes lumpy—for both table and culinary use. Grocers all over the country are now supplying free sample tins, and application should be made for one of them.

THE JOHN BULL LEAGUE.

President—Horatio Bottomley, Esq., M.P.

Objects: To stamp out Cant and Self-Righteousness; to abolish Cranks and Killjoys; to create a robust and self-reliant Public Opinion; and to promote a Common Sense, Business Government for a Common Sense, Business People.

Readers desirous of joining the League must fill up the subjoined form and forward same to the Secretary, 67, Long Acre, London, W.C.

GREAT MASS MEETING AT HACKNEY.

On Friday last the King's Hall was crowded to its utmost capacity with an audience of over 4,000 people, representative of all political parties, to hear the President's address. Prior to his arrival, the Imperial Military Band played patriotic and national airs and Miss Hilda Collens and Miss Lucy Weston delighted the audience with songs and harp solos, respectively.

The President's appearance upon the platform was the signal for a prolonged outburst of cheering.

After Mr. Leo Stormont had sung the League Song—which was twice encored—Mr. Bottomley addressed the meeting, receiving another ovation upon rising. He briefly outlined the objects of the League, and showed their application to the three great divisions into which the life of the nation separated itself—the Religious, the Political and the Social—his broad-minded attitude in regard to them being enthusiastically endorsed by the vast audience. He ingeniously placed before the meeting the views of the various parties, as enunciated by a leading Tariff Reformer, Free Trader and Socialist, and then asked, "What would a Business Man say?"—the middle course he then indicated as that which would be chosen by such a man, who was not a slave to party discipline or shibboleth, being punctuated with repeated rounds of cheers. After engrossing the attention of his audience for over an hour, he resumed his seat, to the accompaniment of another flattering demonstration.

The Rev. Tom Collings ("The Costers' Parson") briefly proposed, and Captain Wells-Holland (an ex-Mayor of Hackney) seconded the resolution approving the objects of the League, which was carried amid loud cheers with but five dissentients.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

—:o:—

Please enrol me as a Member of the John Bull League.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

OUR WEEKLY BALLOT SCHEME.

In our next issue we shall publish the whole of the drawn numbers up to and including those relating to this issue, and after that date the Scheme will be suspended, pending a further and important announcement.

OUR "BUSINESS GOVERNMENT" COMPETITION.

Cheques are being forwarded to all competitors who sent six successful selections, and upwards.

What do You Know about Business.

An article of far-reaching importance to all who are engaged in business. Useful alike to the Clerk, the Salesman, the Traveller, the Manager, or the Proprietor of any Business large or small.

To the thoughtless, the easy-going, or the very young man this question may at first glance seem an insult.

Such a one would answer in an off-handed sort of way: "Why I am *in* Business—I am a Business man. I know all about Business—or I ought to do so."

Aye, there's the rub! He *ought to do*. But does he?

Let me put the same question to you, taking it for granted that you are a thoroughly intelligent man, anxious to make headway in the world; one who, if the only right and possible, and at the same time easy way to do this is pointed out to him, will take it. Any intelligent man would do that, surely!

How much do *you* know about Business? Unless you are a rare and brilliant exception—you will probably own after a mortifying self-examination, that it is precious little indeed of sound Business knowledge that you really know—confidently and surely enough to bank on.

Yet without this Business knowledge your chances of doing well for yourself in the business world are very poor ones indeed. With it, there is

No Position You Cannot Aspire To.

It is only necessary to look around, to read the daily papers, to listen to the gossip of the day, to realise that in no department of life, into which intelligent men put sound knowledge and ability and "sticking in" qualities are the rewards so sure, so soon realised, and so lasting as in the great and increasingly-important world of Business.

Now what do *you* know about Business?

For instance, do you understand Bookkeeping thoroughly? Could you draw up a balance sheet? Do you understand exactly how the financial position of a tradesman or a firm is determined from his books? Do you understand a profit and loss account? Do you know when recovery of book debts is barred?

Do you know the law as it specially affects your own particular trade, business or calling? Do you understand the manufacturing of the goods you are concerned with, or that the firm that employs you is concerned with? Do you know anything at all about manufacturing? Do you know how to figure depreciations? How to check leakage? Do you understand time-keeping systems?

You do not? Not thoroughly and authoritatively? Yet

These Things are Parts of Business Knowledge.

Do you know much about the Income Tax? Do you know Company Law? Do you know the cost of the formation of a Company? The methods of amalgamation? Do you understand the conversion of shares into stock? Do you understand Compulsory Winding-up? Do you know all about County Court Business, Judgments, etc.?

Do you understand clearly what a Bankruptcy definition is? Or what the goodwill of a business really means? Do you know about cheques and banking and bills of all sorts? Do you understand the difference between Insurance and Assurance?

Do you know anything at all about International Trade conditions and regulations?

Do you know how to start a Business? How to secure its credit, and to buy its equipment? How to organise its departments, build up its reputation, collect its debts, rake in its profits?

Do you know anything about big selling schemes? How to create a demand for any special article? How to meet competition? Do you understand the mail order business? Or how to hire and to coach and to deal with salesmen?

Do you know anything about advertising? Would you know how to engineer separately a national advertising appeal and a local appeal?

Yet these matters are Business Knowledge. And if you want to make money in business you must either know them or know where you can get authoritative and complete and up-to-date information concerning them and concerning the thousand and one points of doubt or difficulty that beset the business man in the course of his business day.

Now what are you to do?

You must get the Business Encyclopædia. You can have the complete set of this wonderful work delivered carriage paid for a mere first payment of 1s. 6d., paying for it by a few infinitesimally small monthly payments, while you are using it, and increasing your value in the commercial market by its means.

The Business Encyclopædia is equally necessary to you whether you are a clerk or cashier, a shopkeeper or tradesman, a commercial traveller or agent, a merchant or manufacturer, a stockbroker or financier, a workman or a capitalist.

You cannot do without it whether you are an ambitious young man on the threshold of your commercial life; or a mature business man who dreads that he may be crowded out of the Business fight owing to the present-day stress of competition. If you are young the use of the Business Encyclopædia makes you proficient in

The Knowledge that is Your Stock in Trade.

If you are older, its use gives you the confidence, founded on sound authoritative information, that will enable you to act on your own business ideas. A new idea in business is often the harbinger of fortune, and the use of the Business Encyclopædia stimulates business ideas.

The Business Encyclopædia deals with nothing but business, but it treats of this important subject fully and completely and authoritatively. There are over 12,000 references in the Index; no point of difficulty has been omitted, and every question can be turned up without an instant's loss of time.

Send for our Free Book, "THE PRACTICAL BOOK," and you will soon know all that the Business Encyclopædia will mean to *you* in *your* business life.

SIR THOMAS DEWAR writes:
"I must congratulate you upon the production of such an excellent work. The volumes are full of information, and I feel sure they will be found to be a necessity in every commercial house. Now that we see the 'Encyclopædia,' the marvel is that such a work has not been thought of in this country before."

A CLERK'S OPINION.
Mr. G. W. Read, Clerk, Fortnam Road, London, N.: "I never made a more gratifying purchase. I regard the 'Business Encyclopædia' as a most profitable investment, and I very much regret that such a work did not come my way earlier in life."

A FREE BOOK.

The Publishers have compiled a handsomely illustrated book—"THE PRACTICAL BOOK"—which will be sent to you POST FREE. It contains information of priceless value to the man who means to succeed. It will tell you all about the "Business Encyclopædia," and how it can be obtained for a first payment of 1s. 6d., the balance to be paid by small monthly payments.

To the Caxton Publishing Co.,
Clun House, Surrey Street, London, W.C.

Please send me, free of charge, a copy of "THE PRACTICAL BOOK."

Name .....
(Send this Form or a postcard mentioning JOHN BULL.)

Address .....

.....

OPEN LETTERS, POSTCARDS, AND TELEGRAM.

To Mr. William Jones, of the Monmouthshire English Baptist Association.

MISERABLE SAINT,—You go even further than your brother Abraham, and certainly qualify for the post of Chief Kill-Joy-in-ordinary to the modern Puritan brigade. Any form of exercise or amusement seems to stink in your nostrils. I find that you have been complaining of many young people as "going roller-skating two or three times a week, and spending 2s. every time." That, of course, is a very serious offence. They might have spent the money on beer or cigarettes or the English Baptist Association. Think, also, what waste of time is involved in this desperate recreation! How much better employed the miserable sinners would have been if they had been content to loaf or read the sermons of Baptist divines, or join the Boy Scouts, or learn Esperanto. "There were also," you continued, in horror-stricken whispers, "the rifle-ranges, which attracted young men." Think of that! How idle and sinful to handle so terrible an engine as a rifle, to contemplate the awful possibility of a foreign invasion, and to qualify themselves to act on an emergency as defenders of their country! Finally, I cannot wonder that you were "much distressed at seeing many ministers of the Gospel at a football match," because you did not think it was "a likely place for them to obtain experience for their sermons." Of course, anything vigorous, and healthy, and active would cause you distress, but I do not quite follow your argument. If a football match is, indeed, a wicked orgy, surely ministers of the Gospel ought to see what the orgy is like in order to be able to warn their congregation against the particular pitfalls which are likely to confront them. By the way, what were *you* doing there yourself? JOHN BULL.

To Mr. Kennerley Rumford, Compton Lodge, South Hampstead.

DEAR RUMFORD,—I hope you will not think it necessary to come and whack me over the head with a dog-whip. But I must point out to you that you have acted very foolishly and contemptibly. It seems that you not only resented a very harmless criticism on the singing of your celebrated wife, but you actually so far forgot yourself as to strike the scribe. This gentleman, not being of a pugilistic turn, took your castigation lying down, and went off weeping and gnashing his teeth to Mr. Moberley Bell, the manager of the *Times*, who, with characteristic shrewdness, arranged for retaliation at Marlborough Street Police Court. You then came down from your pedestal, and tendered grovelling expressions of regret and apology. My advice to you is that next time you consider yourself aggrieved, you should take the trouble to master the meaning of plain English before again beginning to brawl. JOHN BULL.

To Robert Applegarth, Esq., National Liberal Club, London.

MY DEAR BOB,—I take this opportunity of congratulating you on your proposal for a National Industrial Education League, which I understand is to be presently inaugurated in London. Like George Jacob Holyoake and George Howell, you were one of a phalanx of reformers who toiled unceasingly for the political freedom and social and material advancement of the masses of the people when toil of that kind involved self-sacrifice which brought much to its honour but reaped little for its reward. Though to the Young Guard the Old Guard is but the half-understood whisper of a name across the years, I neither forget what it sought for in its battles nor the national debt owing to it by reason of its victories.

Full of years but youthful of spirit, I am glad to see you up and at it again in the inception of this Industrial Education League, which, as you tell me, "is the greatest work organised labour ever took in hand." This nation of ours pays far too little attention to the industrial training of its youth. The State, the municipalities, individual enterprise, sporadic philanthropy, have done something in a more or less half-hearted, disorganised, and inefficient way; and if by means of this League you can, as I trust you will, bring the nation to a sense of the almost vital responsibilities of the relation in which it stands to its children in respect of the ever-increasing industrial competition between the peoples of the world, you will have largely increased your title to the grateful recognition of your fellow countrymen. JOHN BULL.

Lloyd George, Wales.

Notice that you wept the other day. Was it an election cry? BULL.

To the Reverend H. Abraham, of the Monmouthshire English Baptist Association.

RASH MAN,—I have read with great interest your original views on sport. You appropriately illustrate the peaceful nature of your calling by denouncing the good old British pastime of boxing. You call it a "black blot on our civilisation," and reflect upon its "brutality and blackguardism." No doubt, you are entitled to your opinions, however absurd, but it appears to me to be somewhat rash on your part to denominate the pugilistic community as the "biggest cowards in the country." Such a statement almost amounts to a challenge, and I should experience neither surprise nor regret if some exponent of the noble art of self-defence took it into his head to punch yours, as a practical proof that, at any rate, he is not afraid of you. It was certainly brave of you to call pugilists cowards.

JOHN BULL.

To Sir Grey Humberston d'Estoteville Skipwith, Bart.

DEAREST D'ESTOTEVILLE,—Seeing that everybody has had a word to say on the political situation, there is no reason why you should not climb up the ancestral tree and go on the stump. Nevertheless, I regret your contribution to the heat of debate should be that "if the Liberal party be returned to power at the next election you will not lift a finger against the foreigner should he invade our shores." You don't really mean to say that you are going to use your feet to ——. No, d'Estoteville, even though your finger fail your country in the hour of its direst peril I will pun you no puns on the ancient name of Skipwith. But let d'Estoteville reconsider his decision, lest we perish.

JOHN BULL.

The Editor's Election Campaign.

We direct attention to the first paragraph of our editorial notes in this week's issue.

OUR EDITOR'S Election Campaign will commence in earnest immediately after the Christmas holidays. He stands as a champion of one of the main principles of the John Bull League,

A Common-Sense, Business Government for a Common-Sense, Business People.

He is a Democrat (and who is not in these days?), but he is opposed to all Fads and Faddists and Grandmotherly interference with the liberties of the people. He is no Party Hack and declines to be a mere Delegate to the House of Commons. His Election Address will be published in our next issue, and will mark an unique departure from the form usually adopted by Parliamentary candidates.

Meanwhile, he wants to feel that in the coming contest every reader of this journal who can in any way assist him in the fight will do so. It would be a calamity for the Editor of JOHN BULL, and President of the John Bull League, to be defeated at the General Election.

Let us see that there is no such danger.

The Central Committee Rooms are at

28, CHURCH ROAD, HOMERTON

(Immediately opposite the North London Station)

where the Editor will be found daily, after Christmas, till the poll is declared. Readers willing and able to help in any of the ways indicated in our Editorial Notes are requested to at once forward their names to that address, stating the nature of the assistance they are prepared to render.

BOTTOMLEY

FOR

SOUTH HACKNEY.

THE CANDIDATE FOR CHRISTMAS.

VOTE FOR BROWN AND MAKE THE NAVY STRONG
VOTE FOR JONES AND MAKE THE LORDS CLIMB DOWN
VOTE FOR ROBINSON AND MAKE THE
VOTE FOR SMITH AND MAKE THE FOREIGNER PAY
ELECTION ADDRESS
VOTE FOR ME AND MAKE THE KIDDIES HAPPY.
VOTE FOR BROWN
VOTE FOR JONES

THE POPULAR CANDIDATE.

December 25th, 1909. JOHN BULL. 345

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

By VERAX.

One can well say of the present time on the Stock Exchange, *Les jours se suivant et ne se ressemblent pas*. One day quite an active demand arises in this or that department, so that one would expect a more permanent "bull" campaign, and the next day is again intensely dull with the jobber's wail, "No business," or *vice versâ*. As I am writing, the South and West African markets are bracing up again after a few days of inanition. How long it will last no one knows, although dividends galore have been declared, and reports from the Rand could not be better, while West Africa is being extolled as the world's greatest goldfield. And so it is with other sections. Home Rails are buoyant one day and dull the next; Argentine Rails are occasionally depressed by rumours of damage to the crops by frost, and Yankee Rails are as mercurial as ever. The fact is, that we cannot look for any continuity in business at the fag end of a year which will be followed almost immediately by a General Election involving immense issues. I do not, therefore, propose to touch too closely upon the fluctuations of the moment, but I will discuss, rather, the more distant prospects, the probable course of the stock markets in January, and the merits of any particular set of securities that are deserving of the attention of investors. There is no doubt that an improvement in trade is developing in this country, in the United States, and on the Continent of Europe. This improvement must have a favourable influence upon the railways and the position of our long-neglected Home Railway securities, and, incidentally, it will facilitate the herculean task of the Wall Street financiers in carrying the bulk of American Railroad stocks. Iron, steel, copper, tin, lead, in fact all metals, will be consumed on a large scale, and this will again set another section of stocks and shares going Then, again, splendid crops have been harvested in Canada and in Russia, and there will, therefore, offer good opportunities for investment in these countries, while latest advices from Argentina are very favourable to the crops there. Whether the defaulting Spanish-American Republics, Costa Rica, Honduras, or Guatemala, will accept the overtures of American financial houses for the settlement of their debts remains to be seen. They may perhaps be encouraged by the example of Peru, while, on the other hand, Colombia threatens to commit a fresh default, not having fully realised yet that "honesty is the best policy." The securities of the well-ordered South American States have one and all appreciated during the past year, and will—barring accidents—probably continue to do so. These and South American and Mexican Railway stocks will, doubtless, be largely dealt in next year, but one of the most important markets will, undoubtedly, be that for Kaffir, Rhodesian, and West African Gold Mines. There will be very remarkable progress on the Rand, in view of the thousands of additional stamps which will be at work in 1910, while important developments may be expected in Rhodesia and in West Africa, which should set the sounder class of shares going again. In the meantime, it is not unlikely that some upward movement may already develop in the old year on behalf of those who wish to take time by the forelock.

THE RISE IN HOME RAILS—THE USEFULNESS OF "JOHN BULL" TABLES.

There is every prospect of Home Rails, with other Home Securities, looming more largely in the public eye in the near future, which will bring the dividend announcements. and the rise which has occurred since I drew attention to the cheapness of many stocks has been so marked that it will be convenient to my readers if I bring my tables up-to-date. Even in the most conservative circles the view is gaining ground that, whatever be the fate of the speculator in Home Rails, the present offers an excellent opportunity for making advantageous purchases for investment. During the first week of November quotations stood at a very low level, *North Western* having gone below 130, *Great Western* 118, *Midland* Deferred 54¼, *North Eastern* 127½, etc. There has since been a moderate rally, which, considering the fact that present quotations carry a full half-year's dividend, is nothing to speak of. Politics, of course, play an important part in shaping the course of this market, but the question of "railway nationalisation" has not come within the range of practical politics, and is not likely to for a long time to come; while, after all, it is possible to make too much of the Socialistic bogey. The intrinsic position of the railways has, at any rate, considerably improved, and from that point of view Home Rails present many attractions for investment. Traffics are steadily improving; the railway companies are now authorised to carry only 20 cwts. of coal per ton, instead of 20½ cwts. as hitherto, while charging for only a ton; working expenses are being steadily reduced by the agreements now in force; and labour differences are being amicably arranged by arbitration. The value of these considerations as "Bull" points cannot be doubted, and that is why I consider that investors, instead of going far afield, and perhaps doing worse, ought at least to place some of their capital in a selection of the following stocks:—

ORDINARY AND PREFERRED ORDINARY.

Name.	Dividend per cent. 1908-9.	Highest. 1909.	Price, Nov. 8.	Buying Price.	Yield p.a. per ann. £ s. d.
Barry Ord.	6½	164	155	153	4 5 0
Caledonian Pref. Ord.	3	94½	91	91½	4 13 0
Central London Pref.	4	86½	87	86	4 13 0
Great Central 5% Pref. 1879	5	109	106	108	4 12 6
Great Eastern	2½	65½	59	62	4 0 9
Great Northern Def. Ord.	1½ (a)	46½	40½	43½	4 1 0
Great Western Ord.	5½	125½	118½	120½	4 7 3
Hull and Barnsley	2½	54½	53	54½	3 17 9
Lanc. and Yorks. Ord.	3½	93½	87½	91	3 19 9
London and N. Western Ord.	5½	139	130	134	4 3 9
London and S. West. Def. Ord.	1½ (a)	45½	39	40	3 15 0
L.B. & S.C.R. Def. Ord.	3½ (a)	92½	84½	86	4 1 6
Metropolitan Cons.	1½	41½	37½	39½	1 18 3
Do. District Exten. Pref.	3½	70½	68	68	5 3 0
Midland Def. Ord.	2½	59½	54½	57½	4 2 9
North British Pref. Ord.	3	70½	63½	65	4 12 3
North Eastern Consols	5½	131½	127½	130	4 4 6
North London Consols	3½	106	102	102	3 13 6
Rhymney Def. Ord.	3½ (a)	108½	103	112	3 2 6
South Eastern Pref. Ord.	5½	112½	105	108	5 1 9
Taff Vale Ord.	4½	82½	77	76½	5 7 6

(a) for 1908.

Prices have receded somewhat from last week's highest points touched, but the advances are still very substantial. *Great Western* are up 3, *North Western* 4, *Midland* Def. 2¾, *Great Northern* Def. 3, *North Eastern* 3½, *South Eastern* Pref. Ord. 3; others from 1 to 2. Yet the yields are still very satisfactory, ranging in many cases from 4 to 5 per cent. per annum in sound stocks. Nor must it be forgotten that almost a whole half-year's dividend is included in the prices. The Deferred stocks are particularly attractive at the present level, many of them now containing a whole year's dividend, notably *Brighton* A, *Great Northern* Deferred, and *South Western* Deferred. There is no doubt that in the past prices of Home Rails were rushed up much too high, but they have since come down to a more reasonable level, so that the contrast in yield between them and Foreign Rails is now less striking. After all, investors have always had a liking for Home Rails, which are subject to fewer untoward developments than many foreign lines, and it will evidently not require much of a lead to cause the investment demand to broaden out considerably, especially in the New Year, with the result of a substantial appreciation in values. Always provided, of course, that politics do not interfere with the normal course of the market.

PREFERENCE STOCKS.

Name.	Dividend per cent.	Highest, 1908.	Price, Nov. 22.	Buying Price.	Yield p.a. per ann. £ s. d.
Barry Cons.	4	107	105	107	3 16 0
Caledonian No. 2	4	110	104	104	3 17 0
Furness	4	101½	94	93 (a)	4 6 0
Great Cent. Convert. (1879)	5	119½	106	108	4 12 6
Great Eastern 1893	3½	95½	89	90	3 17 0
Great Northern Cons. Perp.	4	116	108	109	3 17 0
Great Western	5	144½	135	137	3 13 0
Lancs. and Yorks. Cons.	5	87	80½	81½	3 13 6
L. and North West. Cons.	4	117½	109	111	3 12 0
L. and South West. (1884)	4	115	108	108	3 14 0
L. Brighton Cons. Pref.	5	137	131	133	3 15 3
Midland Perp.	2½	73½	67½	69	3 12 6
N. Brit. Conv. (1874)	5	129½	126	126	3 19 3
South Eastern Conv. (1903)	4	104	100	100	4 0 0

(a) xd.

This table contains the slower-moving Preference stocks which are mostly a point up, some rather more, while others have not moved, but they are cheap, as, while being well secured, they yield from 3¾ to 4 per cent. per annum on the investment. It should be noted that *South Eastern* Conv., 1903, earn 4 per cent. Then there is the *Great Central* Con. (1879) Pref. from which a yield of 4¼ per cent. can be obtained.

CANADIAN SECURITIES—THE SPLENDID PROGRESS OF THE CANADIAN PACIFIC—PROSPERITY OF THE DOMINION.

The splendid wheat crop of the Canadian North West has brought fresh prosperity to that fertile part of Canada and it has also been instrumental in largely increasing the traffic of the Canadian Pacific Road, while the enormous immigration attracted by the virgin soil of the country is sending up the value of agricultural land by leaps and bounds. Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, President of the Canadian Pacific, who has recently arrived here from Canada, is anxious to secure good men of British stock to settle in Western Canada, offering great facilities, break up part of the land and build a house and stable for the emigrant so that he

would find a crop ready to be harvested on arrival. Sir Thomas stated the case of a man who bought 2,400 acres in Southern Alberta for $33,000. This land yielded, last year, wheat to the value of $66,000. On the other hand Eastern Canada is also benefiting by the development of the younger provinces of the Dominion, and industrial enterprises are also flourishing. Reverting to the Canadian Pacific, the progress of the Road is shown by the fact that from July 1st to October 31st the traffic returns reached $32,635,000 against $26,452,000 for the same period in 1908, and this position has been further improved since by an increase of some $350,000 a week, while this is altogether apart from the enormous profit made on land sales, the company owning a huge territory. The following is a table of Canadian securities which will receive every attention in the coming year:—

Name.	Dividend. p.c.	Present Buying Price.	Highest, 1909.	Lowest, 1909.	Yield per cent. £ s. d.
Alberta Cap. Stock	5	137	140	111½	3 13 0
Canadian Nthrn. Perp. Deb.	4	94*	97½	90	4 2 3
Canadian Pacific	7	185½	195½	169½	3 15 6
Grand Trunk 2nd Pref.	6	94½	96½	82	5 5 9
Grand Trunk Pacific Deb.	4	93	96½	87½	4 4 3
Canadian Gen. Electric	6	117	126½	106½	6 16 9
Minneapolis (Soo) Stock	6	148	150½	136½	4 1 0
Rio de Janeiro Trams	6	93½	107½	81½	4 5 9

(a) Estimated 8 per cent. for second half.
(b) Estimated 4 per cent. 1909.
(c) Estimated 5 per cent. 1909.
* ex. div.

The price of *Canadian Pacific* stock of 185½ ex the 9½ rights to the new stock recently allotted at a low price, thus providing a bonus. The yield on the present dividend is not high, but it is expected that an additional bonus of one per cent. will be given in the near future from land sales. I fully anticipate to see *Can. Pacs.* over 200 in the coming year. The *Grand Trunk Railway of Canada* is not so progressive, but the improvement in trade should also benefit its lines, while the *Grand Trunk Pacific* will act as a feeder The *Canadian Northern Railway* is also doing well, and the *Canadian General Electric* is a sound industrial Company. The *Minneapolis St. Paul Sault St. Marie* generally called the "Soo" Line, is a very prosperous road, partly controlled by the Canadian Pacific, and earns a good deal more than it distributes in dividends. This stock may be expected to go materially higher. The *Rio de Janeiro Tramway Company* is Canada-promoted, and doing well. These shares, which have already touched 107½, may be expected to rise to a higher level as the dividends increase.

THE KAFFIR CIRCUS AND THE RAND DIVIDENDS—RHODESIANS FLUCTUATE—WEST AFRICANS BRACE UP.

The Kaffir Circus has not been enlivened as much as might have been expected by the declaration of dividends by some thirty Rand Mining Companies. The following table shows that these are very satisfactory:—

Name.	2nd Half, 1908. %	1st Half, 1909. %	2nd Half, 1909. %
City and Suburban	3½	—	5
Crown Mines	—	—	65
Durban Roodepoort	20	20	35
Durban Roodepoort Deep	5	10	5
East Rand Prop.	20	20	20
Ferreira Deep	22½	25	27½
Ferreira Gold	150	350	250
Geldenhuis Deep	22½	17½	17½
Jubilee	25	25	25
Jumpers	10	10	10
Jumpers Deep	5	—	5
Main Reef West	—	—	12½ (a)
Meyer and Charlton	50	25	20
New Goch	—	—	10 (a)
New Heriot	40	40	40
New Kleinfontein	20	12½	12½
New Modderfontein	7½	7½	5
and Mines	100	200	150
Robinson Gold	15	15	15
Roodepoort United	12½	10	7½
Rose Deep	20	25	25
Salisbury	16	15	15
Witwatersrand Deep	27½	30	25
West Rand Consolidated	—	—	3½ (a)
Wolhuter	—	—	5
Van Ryn	22½	22½	22½
Village Deep	7½	7½	7½
Village Main Reef	30	35	35
May Consolidated	20	20	20
Princess Estate	10	10	10

(a) First distribution Made.

A close examination of these figures will show that almost in every case the distribution of the first half of the current year has been equalled by the new declaration for the second half, while there is a considerable increase in a good many as compared with the corresponding second half of 1908. It is true the Modderfontein Mine pays only five per cent. (on £4 shares) against 7½ per cent., but the Company carries forward a very large sum in order to defray out of the profits the very important addition to the plant, which will thus have a much greater crushing capacity. I may also mention the very interesting statements which Mr. George Albu, fresh from South Africa, made at the Van Ryn meeting last week, and which has created a most favourable impression. He spoke in a very reassuring manner of the supply of native labour and he also expressed the opinion that it would be possible to effect a further considerable reduction in working costs. He declared himself convinced that the coming new year would witness a material advance in the prosperity of the mines. *Rhodesians* suffered at one time from realisations for Brussels account, but *Tanks* have now taken up the running again and *Chartered* are steadier. *Giants*, however, are somewhat unsteady, as a fault was met in the reef at the seventh level. The Jungle market is to see the flotation of a new Parent and Exploration Company, under the highest South African auspices, and all the leading shares are on the up grade, notably *Ashanti Goldfields*, *Gold Coast Amalgamated*, *Abosso*, *Prestea Block "A,"* and *Prestea Mines* and *Fanti Consols*.

SOUTH EAST AFRICA, LIMITED, AND THE GERMAN OPHIR MINE.

Considerable interest attaches to the meeting of shareholders of the German Ophir Mines Company, held in Berlin on the 14th inst. This mine is a subsidiary of South East Africa, Limited, and is controlled to the extent of over three-fourths by that Company. It had been proposed to convert the German Ophir into an English limited company, but one of the directors, Dr. Karl Peters, having advised against this step for the present, an exchange of shares was offered, as the South East Africa Company still owns 900,000 marks of Ophir shares. This proposal may, in the near future, be accepted. The position of the Capitaine Mine, which is the richest of the Ophir's Mines, was reported as most satisfactory, as the reef shows an unexpectedly large size, extending to something like 11,500 feet, while near the surface it is from 3 to 5 feet wide, and at a depth of 20 feet, 12 to 14 feet wide, although the gold contents are somewhat irregular. A recent trial crushing of 120 tons, however, gave a result of over 2 ozs. to the ton. For 1910 a substantial profit is expected to be obtained with 20 stamps, but the real dividend stage will be entered in 1911 with 60 stamps. The available working capital, £25,000, would be quite sufficient. Several of the speakers were of opinion that the South East Africa Company was obtaining too large a share of the profit from the Ophir Mines. The other mines owned by the South East Africa are the Count Moltke Gold Reef, near Macequece (Manicaland), where considerable development work has been done, the Inyamkara Alluvial (Manicaland), about 90 acres, and rights over 4,000 acres of rich gold-bearing alluvial; the Bilkis, Chipangula Mines in North Eastern Mashonaland, which is estimated to average 8 dwts. of gold per ton; the Mazoe River Alluvial (Abercorn District), two blocks of 3,000 square yards each, concessions of 1,500 claims from the British South Africa Company, Zambesia Company, and Mozambique Companies. The Ophir Company also owns the Mudza Reef (40 claims), a low grade proposition, giving 6 to 7 dwts.; 5,500 ft. of development have been completed, the ore body is very large and 20 ft. wide. South East Africa shares have recently been dealt in to a considerable extent at about 32s. 6d., and have temporarily declined to 30s., on some "bear" sales, which have been traced to German operators, and have partly, perhaps, been dictated by jealousy, but in view of the important assets, it is likely that the price will improve again in the near future.

NEW ISSUES.

Chota Rubber Estates, Limited.—The capital of this Company is fixed at £50,000 in 500,000 2s. shares, and 270,000 shares are offered at par. The property consists of three estates in Selangor, Federated Malay States, and the total planted area is 402 acres, out of 1,056 acres. Most of the trees planted are young, from 1½ to 2½ years, and the profits for the first few years would be quite small. Only in 1912 a profit of £6,420 is estimated. This is more or less the objection with all recent new rubber promotions, and it would be far preferable to invest in the old well-established concerns which are already producing on a good scale.

F.I.A.T. MOTOR CAB COMPANY.

SEVEN PER CENT. DIVIDEND DECLARED ON THE CUMULATIVE PREFERRED SHARES.

Lord Grimthorpe, presiding at the third ordinary general meeting of the Company, congratulated the shareholders upon the substantial progress which had been made during the ten months covered by the accounts. After providing for the maintenance and upkeep of the rolling stock, insurance of cabs, taximeter rent, etc., a trading profit was shown of not less than £38,329, though the earnings of the complete fleet of cabs were not included. After allowing for general expenses, the writing off of sundry preliminary expenses, underwriting, etc., the placing of over £10,000 to the reserve, and deducting £3,766 lost last year during the period of organisation, the highly satisfactory net profit balance of £9,397 was shown, which allowed of the declaration of a dividend upon the cumulative preferred participating ordinary shares at the rate of 7 per cent. for the ten months. In view, however, of the continued profitable trading, the Board had decided to pay an interim dividend of 2 per cent. at the same time as the other, thus equalling a full 7 per cent. for the year. The resolution was carried unanimously.

OUR SPECIAL POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

(Specially Mis-Reported for John Bull.*)*

By Richard Morton.

(Mr. Morton satirises recent Police Court proceedings.)

HYPNOTISM—PATHETIC CASE.

A most original defence was successfully advanced in an interesting case yesterday, when Priscilla Prunes, a lady's companion, of South Kensington, was brought before Mr. Ovid Jones, at Southminster, on a charge of stealing two blouses, a transformation, and a dog whip from the premises of Messrs. Hustle and Tear, drapers, Pimlico.

Accused was a pretty young lady, slim, pale, and fashionably attired. She was accommodated with a seat in the dock, and wept copiously into a lace-bordered handkerchief. The evidence against her was to the effect that she was seen to enter the shop of the prosecutors and was watched. Things had been missed on previous occasions, and the young lady was suspected.

A detective-inspector said as far as he knew there was nothing else against the character of the young lady.

Mr. Simplee Wackham elicited that when other goods had been missed from the shop the accused had been in company of another lady, some years her senior. The detective said he had heard so.

Mr. Wackham said upon that he should rely for his most ingenious defence. This young lady was highly respectable and very discreetly brought up. She had been with a lady as companion for a long period, and everybody was greatly surprised when this charge was brought against her. But she was only a weak girl, and easily influenced by persons of a stronger turn of mind. It was her ill fate to come into contact with a strong-willed lady who controlled her movements when she went shopping.

Dr. Bolus said the young lady suffered from nervous disorders. She was a docile creature.

Mr. Wackham: I suggest she was just the sort of person to bend beneath the influence of a firmer mind?

Witness: Oh, yes.

Mr. Wackham: And she would naturally be susceptible to the influence wielded by that other person?

Witness: There is no doubt about it.

Mr. Wackham said that was his case. This poor young lady was doing what some other person willed her to do. She was hypnotised, and could not help herself. Her employer gave her a good character and would look after her if she was bound over.

Mr. Ovid Jones said that under the affecting circumstances he would accept the recognisances of her employer in a sum of twenty pounds to bring the defendant up for judgment if called upon within six months. If she behaved herself, and resisted the influence, that would be an end of the case.

HYPNOTISM—ABSURD DEFENCE.

William Sikes, Junior, of Bethnal Green, was brought before Mr. Hammer at the East End Court, charged with breaking into the premises of John Brown, at Old Ford, and stealing a shoulder of mutton and the sum of seven-and-sixpence in money.

The prisoner evidently belonged to the labouring class, and, looking very rough, presented a woebegone appearance as he stood in the dock. He was not legally represented.

The prosecutor said he secured his premises overnight but was awakened by the police to find the prisoner in custody. He had climbed through the fanlight, picked up the leg of mutton, and taken the money from the till. He had heard the man had a good character but was out of work and said he was hungry. Constable Rozzer, who arrested the accused, said the man was very upset. He cried, and said it was not his fault that he had committed the robbery. He had been told to do it.

Magistrate: That is no excuse. Now, Sikes, what have you to say?

Prisoner: I am a poor fellow of no education. My mind is weak, and I ought to be looked after. I don't want to steal. But I am mesmerised by another man who tells me what to do, and I have to obey him. His influence is too strong for me to resist. He told me to do this job, so I done it!

Magistrate: That tale is too thin for this court. Try and think of something better next time. Six months.

WEST CANADIAN DEEP LEADS, LIMITED.

Authorised Capital	**£150,000**
Issued Capital	**£132,000**

The following particulars regarding the recent discovery of a section of the original Main Lead of the Cariboo Gold Belt, British Columbia, will prove of interest:—

Mr. Leicester A. Bonner, M.I.M.M, F.G.S., etc., has devoted many years of study to locating a portion of the Main Lead of the Cariboo Gold Belt. As this is one of the richest gold belts in the world the subject is an important one, in evidence of which it may be stated that during the past 10 to 15 years quite £1,000,000 has been spent unsuccessfully by various interests in endeavouring to locate the original course of this lead. Mr. Bonner having had the benefit of these unsuccessful efforts was able to eliminate a good deal of ground and confine his researches to what, in his opinion, was the particular direction of the original course of this lead.

William's Creek, judging from the official records, was the richest creek tributary to this main lead; in fact, as a creek it holds the world's record, having yielded 40 tons of gold. Its present course can be defined for a considerable distance, from which fact it might be inferred that the task of locating the original course of the main lead should not have involved so much expenditure and time, but when it is borne in mind that the original course of the lead was formed during the tertiary period, and that in the interval glacial and other factors of enormous denuding power would completely alter the drainage of the country, some idea may be gathered of the difficulty of Mr. Bonner's task. During the past three years Mr. Bonner has had the co-operation of Professor S. Herbert Cox, A.R.S.M., Head of the Royal School of Mines, South Kensington, and as a result of Professor Cox's personal visit it was finally decided to bore a section of Little Valley under the personal supervision of Mr. Leicester Bonner. About £9,000 was spent in drilling, and resulted, as anticipated, in locating the main channel; in one of the bores a small piece of crystalline gold was found on reaching bedrock at a depth of 253 feet.

In order to remove any possibility of doubt a check section of bores half a mile distant was thereafter sunk, confirming the direction of the main channel, and also proving the confluence of William's Creek to be actually on the Company's property. Mr. Leicester Bonner states that, assuming the Little Valley is only one-third as rich as its tributary, William's Creek, the yield of gold should be phenomenal, as the Company owns a mile run of the main channel. Both Professor Cox and Mr. Bonner concur in considering that the boreholes have placed beyond any possibility of doubt that the property contains an intact section of the Main Lead, so that whatever gold was originally concentrated there should be there to-day. The shaft is already 38 feet down, working three shifts day and night. The Company has ample funds and machinery, etc., and taking into consideration that William's Creek, just above this property, recovered 40 tons of gold, and that just below, the Thistle Mine to-day is turning out heavy gold, which information was to hand last mail, there should be little doubt as to the ultimate success of the undertaking. The shaft is precisely being sunk on the spot in borehole No. 3, where the small piece of gold was recovered.

All the necessary funds have been privately found for sinking the shaft, and work has commenced with powerful machinery, so that it is anticipated that four to six months will bring a successful issue to Mr. Bonner's life work.

In view of the strong character of the evidence as set out in the foregoing, and bearing in mind that every possible precaution has been taken, the risk may be considered to have been practically eliminated, and, seeing the moderate capitalisation of the Company, it may be reasonably anticipated that the shares of the Company will become exceedingly valuable.

Any further information either of a general or technical character will be readily afforded on application to the Secretary at the Company's Offices, 13, St. Helen's Place, London, E.C.

"THE L.C.C. AND A WORKMAN."

WHO WILL GIVE A HAND?

In our issue of October 16th, we referred to the case of a man named Downham, of 54, Spey Street, Poplar. Downham, as many of our readers will remember, was the conductor of a tram and was dismissed by the L.C.C. because having in error given a passenger two tickets instead of one—the facts are not in dispute—he retained the second ticket, which had not been used or paid for, intending to sell it on the up journey. For ourselves we can see no offence in this. The L.C.C. thought fit to dismiss Downham. But the matter by no means stopped there. Having returned his uniform to the Council on December 9th, on the following Tuesday Downham was arrested upon information supplied by the officials of the Council for obtaining by false pretences £1 11s. 3d. Taken before Mr. Biron, Downham was committed for trial, but when the case came before Mr. Wallace, K.C., Chairman of the Newington Sessions, on December 23rd, the jury stopped it with a verdict of "Not guilty," and the judge, addressing Downham, said, "You are discharged absolutely without a stain upon your character." Here we have a man dismissed by the L.C.C. for an offence that was no offence in the real meaning of the word, and then arrested by the officials of the Council upon a charge of theft for which there was not the shadow of foundation, and which immediately it was investigated by a competent tribunal was dismissed. We should have thought that in these circumstances the Council would have offered to restore Downham to his old employment, or, at any rate, have given him some compensation. They refused to do either, and Downham sued for damages. Here he was non-suited, with costs, on the ground that there was no evidence of want of reasonable and probable cause to go to the jury.

Since then Downham has been doing his best to get work without success. Some of our readers, in answer to a previous appeal, were good enough to send him small sums of money which have been of the greatest use to him, but they are not sufficient to enable him to tide over his trouble, and nearly everything he had in his home had to be sold in order to keep a roof over the heads of his wife and children, and to find food for them. Moved by our representations of the case, a gentleman has very kindly offered to pay for a course of training for Downham as a motor-car driver, and Major Hartopp has interested himself successfully with the Commissioner of Police to obtain him a licence, so that, altogether, the New Year bids fair to be brighter for this much-tried and ill-used young man. The trouble is to bridge the interval. Downham has done his very utmost to get work without success, and Christmas approaches with rent unpaid and an empty larder. Not much is wanted; a ten pound note would make all the difference between acute distress due to no fault of his and comparative comfort. We ask our readers to help us to find this sum.

OUR WEEKLY LIMERICK.

If the ballot of Battersea spurns
It's trusty, tried member, John Burns,
Will he, thirsting for glory,
Become a rank Tory?
Why not? There've been many such turns.

"RETLAW."

A new invention for smokers has just been placed on the market. Although sold at the small price of one shilling, the Baron Patent Automatic Pipe Filler (the name of the invention referred to) enables the smoker to fill his pipe with ease, the tobacco being laid quite straight in the bowl and not in a tangled mass. What this means in the way of additional satisfaction and enjoyment every pipe smoker will be able to appreciate. The invention consists of the automatic pipe filler (a neat little nickelled vest-pocket affair, beautifully finished) and paper-cased cartridges holding the tobacco.

It is worthy of note that smokers are again indebted to the man who is known the world over as "The Tobacco Trade Inventor"—Mr. Bernhard Baron, the inventor of the cigarette-making machine.

There are two tobaccos now obtainable in special cartridges for use with the Pipe-Filler—Craven mixture and Black Cat mixture—the prices being the same as for the loose tobacco.

PROVIDENCIA MINES (MEXICO).

A Conservative Estimate of the Wealth of the Property.

There are two men in the Parral district of Mexico whose opinions and reports are worth the fullest credence, from the fact that one:—

Mr. J. J. WEISEL, E.M., of German nationality, has a practical experience of from ten to fifteen years in this locality, and is well posted in local mining conditions, and who has been thus described by banking houses. He is in the employ of a consolidated mining company, under whose direction good results are being attained. The other:—

Mr. D. F. RIDDELL, E.M., until lately the Professor at the School of Mines, Sororro, New Mexico, and has had charge of the recent developments of the Providencia Mines, have both surveyed and reported on the property, and it is from these reports that the following calculations are made as to the wealth of same.

It must, however, be borne in mind that the law in Mexico under General Diaz's directorship is most drastic concerning mining engineers' reports. For instance, if a mine does not produce the quality of mineral wealth deputed by the engineer as being there, he personally is liable for such deficit, in lieu of which punishment by imprisonment is his lot, and the same applies to any person corroborating his report. Consequently the rule in Mexico is that most guarded mining reports are given.

Mr. J. J. Weisel, E.M., reports in connection with the main vein only (before the mine was purchased by the present company), that, owing to *the dip of the ore body from the horizontal being* 82° *towards the east, thus a working depth over ore within the limits of the property will be over* 2,000 *feet and averages* 40 *feet wide* (we know, however, that subsequent developments expose the vein at the south end of the property by means of an open surface cut to be 90 feet wide). In his own words, "*take the width of good ore to be only* 8 *feet, this means a metric tonnage of* 1,383,333; *at* £4 *per ton net profit equals* £5,533,332."

Mr. D. F. Riddell, E.M., reports that the shaft is now sunk more than 328 feet with levels at each 50 feet, and that during the process of proving the mine the output has been 35 tons per day, costing less than £10 to produce.

Four official assays of samples of ore (extracted in sinking and developing main shaft, July, 1908, to July, 1909) show an average value over £14 per ton. These samples and assays, together with the full text of Messrs. Weisel and Riddell's reports, may be seen at the Registered Offices of the Company, 25 and 26, Gamage Buildings, Holborn, E.C. The latest official assay, October, 1909, of a sample of the vein matter at bottom of main shaft shows that ore to the value of over £17 per ton is now being extracted.

Now if 35 tons per day is the production whilst proving with a value of £5 per ton (about one-third of official assay) less an operating expense of £10 per day, there is a gain of about £165 per day. Assuming the operation of the mine to be 250 days per annum, the expected annual profit may safely be approximated at £41,250, equal to 11·4 per cent. of the issued capital.

Assuming that the production be increased to 100 tons per day and the operating expense to £30 per day, always estimating the same values per ton and days operation per annum, the annual profit may be safely approximated at £117,500—equal to 32·6 per cent. of the issued capital.

When the mine is developed to a production of 200 tons per day (and it is expected that it will be at that stage of development early in the summer of 1910), assuming the operations expense to increase proportionately, say to £60 per day, and also the before-named values per ton and days operation per annum, the annual profit may safely be approximated at £235,000—equal to 65·3 per cent. of the issued capital.

It will therefore be seen from these two reports that the former Engineer distinctly states that taking the vein at only 8 feet wide, the mine is worth 5½ million pounds sterling, and the figures of the latter Engineer, when the production of, say, 150 tons per day is reached, will show a dividend of about 50 per cent. per annum, and it can with confidence be expected that this dividend will be greatly increased and better results attained, especially as there are no directors' fees, and all that comes out of the mine, after paying mining expenses, is net profit to shareholders.

A Special Settlement in the Company shares was recently granted by the Committee of the London Stock Exchange, and the shares are now obtainable at about 7s. 9d., a price which leaves ample room for improvement.

IMAGINARY INTERVIEWS.

By WALTER MOORE.

XXIX.—MR. A. J. BALFOUR.

Learning from the newspapers that Mr. Balfour had gone down to Whittingehame to recuperate, I felt that a good opportunity for interviewing the right honourable gentleman had at last presented itself. I, therefore, followed him to the North, and presented my credentials.

Mr. Balfour, with a basin of gruel on his knees, and his feet in hot mustard water, received me affably.

"I have long wondered when would come my turn to be interviewed in the virile columns of JOHN BULL," smiled the Leader of the Opposition.

"Well, your hour has now come," I said, solemnly. "I am prepared to take down your confessions; are you ready?"

"By all means," returned Mr. Balfour; "I am always ready to make a clear statement of my views."

"What, then," I asked, "is your interpretation of Tariff Reform?"

"A judicious readjustment of taxes upon imports," replied Mr. Balfour.

"M—yes," I said, doubtfully; "but would you do me the favour of being rather more explicit?"

"Certainly," responded Mr. Balfour. "Tariff Reform, I take it, means a wise rearrangement of import taxes. What could you have more clear than that?"

"I must confess that I am not quite satisfied even now," said I; "there is so much difference of opinion amongst politicians as to what is wise. Pray use more definite terms."

Mr. Balfour raised his expressive eyebrows.

"Surely," said he, "there is no ambiguity in what I have said? However, I will endeavour to satisfy you. Tariff Reform, in my opinion, means a prudent revision of the Customs duties."

"My dear sir!" I cried, running my fingers despairingly through my hair, "you are the most difficult subject I have yet had to deal with. At the risk of seeming discourteous, I must again beg you to give me your interpretation of Tariff Reform in precise, unmistakeable terms."

Mr. Balfour took a couple of spoonfuls of gruel, and gazed at me with a slightly contemptuous expression.

"I am afraid," said he, "you are somewhat obtuse, if you will pardon my saying so. It is so simple. Tariff Reform, I say, means a discreet amendment of the fiscal charges imposed upon goods coming into the country. There!"

Slightly abashed, I hastened to mollify the Opposition leader.

"You see," I said, "I have never written a book in 'Defence of Philosophic Doubt,' nor have I delved down among the 'Foundations of Belief.' My mind is finite. It craves simplicity of terminology. I ask you for an exact definition of what you call Tariff Reform."

"I thought I had given it," declared Mr. Balfour. "I have no wish to be obscure. I do not think I am obscure. Nevertheless, I will try again."

I got ready my pencil, and waited expectantly.

"Tariff Reform," began Mr. Balfour, with great deliberation, "I take to mean this—namely, a rational change, modification, variation, and addition to the existing charges levied by the Customs officials, in obedience to former Acts of Parliament, on merchandise, wares, commodities, and goods, imported or introduced into this country from foreign parts. And now I hope you are satisfied."

"Your explanation," I said, with heat, "seems to me nothing more than a frigid, calculated evasion. But I will press you no more on the point. I will ask you instead, what you think of the House of Lords?"

"I do not think about the House of Lords at all," replied Mr. Balfour, smiling an inscrutable smile. "I am a House of Commons man."

"Ure——" I began.

But Mr. Balfour had touched the bell, and I was led away.

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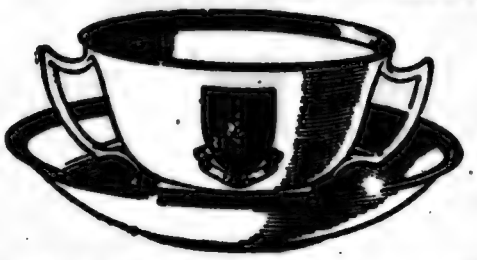

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KEEP ALL DOGS HEALTHY.

TRY, TRY, TRY AGAIN.

By IRENE MILLER.

The handsome and well-dressed young foreign Countess who is pursuing the youthful pianist (name kept secret, doubtless to be revealed by advertising agent in due course) with such wiles as pinning him to the wall and bribing his friends to kidnap the helpless victim, has at least two strong points—she knows her own mind, and does not mean to be easily baulked. But, of course, the poor Countess is playing the game of love clumsily and absurdly.

But is not Cupid becoming a little *blase* nowadays, and somewhat unenterprising? "I think men take 'No' for an answer very easily," commented a charming middle-aged spinster looking back over a career that, while certainly not devoid of adventure, found her still "Miss" at five-and-forty. "Are we degenerating?" is an often put query, and certainly many modern young men seem dreadfully "slack" in their courting. It is all right if they are immediately and gratefully accepted—it is easy for a triumphant victor to show at his best! But will they exercise patience and try, try, try again?

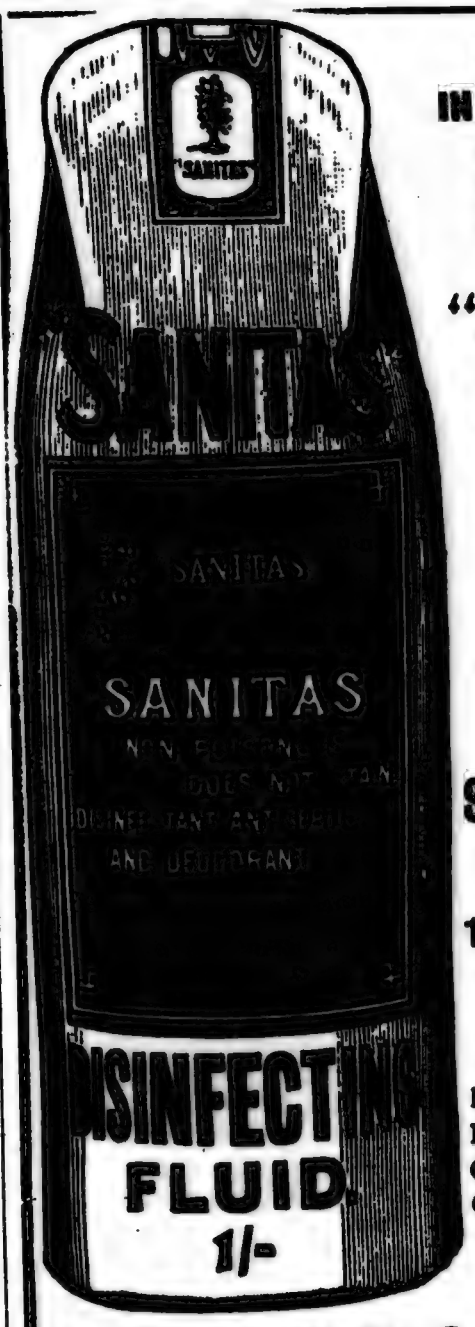
I am not advising girls to seize upon an offer rapidly, while it is still theirs to take or reject—probably they are better off without such transitory affection. I seek rather to make a Christmas gift of fresh hope to every young man who has been rejected by "the one girl in the world." Never despair! Don't bully her; don't make your sentiments a thorough nuisance to her, but—don't take "No" for an answer. Don't quit the field; be always on hand; make yourself indispensable. I knew of a man who cut out scores of rivals and wedded a wealthy widow, simply by being always around, always bright and amusing and attentive. The little lady grew to turn to him with assurance and trust, and in due course—wedding bells.

Another hint—do not destroy the advantage gained by months of brave patience by one unlucky outburst of bad temper. There was once a youth who one sorry day allowed himself to be goaded into informing his obdurate lady that, by failing to appreciate his affection, she had proved herself unworthy of it, while he was but showing the depths of his undying devotion by still courting a woman whom his intellect must perforce despise. Alack! Here I have no wedding bells to record!

Vanity has a lot to do with marriages—as with most other things. We incline towards the people who pamper our vanity, while we think those who wound it the most unpleasant individuals. Therefore constancy—unwavering perseverance—is often crowned with success, because it is the sincerest compliment, the truest tribute to the lady's fascinations, that an admirer can offer. Besides that, "Love, love begets," and "Affection will affection move," as an old-time poet sings right truly. Never despair, then, till She is hopelessly Mrs. Somebody Else.

Of course, different individuals need different tactics—not a few are most amenable to the "dog in the manger" sentiment. Then the appearance of a rival on the scene will effect what no amount of patient waiting would ever have done. In any case, rejected lover, console yourself with the thought that you have two out of three chances of ultimate happiness. (1) *She* may change *her* mind. (2) *You* may change yours. Failing this, you must turn to your second-best girl for consolation, or resign yourself to becoming a disagreeable, dried-up, misanthropic old bachelor! In any case do not follow the recipe given by the Elizabethan poet for cursing slighted love.

"Tie one end of a rope right over a beam,
And make a slip noose at the other extreme,
Just under the beam let a bucket be set,
On it let the lover most manfully get.
Right over his head let the snicket be got,
And under his ear well fastened the knot.
The bucket kicked clear, let him take a full swing,
And leave all the rest of the work to the string."



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NORTH TARKWA SYNDICATE.

A circular and map have been issued to Shareholders, setting out particulars of the Syndicate's banket interests in the Tarkwa district and Ashanti, as follows:—

KOTRA VERCHEY CONCESSION.

A lease of this property, which is situated about 5 miles from Tarkwa, has been secured by the Syndicate. The new Railway now being constructed by the Government from Tarkwa to Prestea runs right through the Concession. Auriferous banket about 4 feet in width has been exposed upon the property, in the cutting of the railway. Samples taken from 4 adits by our Engineer have all proved to be auriferous, and active prospecting work is now proceeding.

KOTRA VERCHEY EXTENSIONS (NORTH-EAST).

The Syndicate has also secured the right to take up leases of 6 further concessions, being the immediate continuations to the North-East of the above-mentioned Kotra Verchey property. The Engineer, in dealing with these extensions, intimates that he believes the banket runs right through the whole of them to Sika Bippo, which latter concession, including the extension thereof, it will be remembered, is already the property of the Syndicate.

KOTRA VERCHEY EXTENSION (SOUTH-WEST).

An agreement has also been entered into with the Gold Coast Explorers, Limited, who hold the option rights over the South-West Extensions, known as the Taku Nasu property, whereby the Syndicate has secured the option to acquire a lease of the block immediately adjoining and to the South-West of the Syndicate's Kotra Verchey Concession. This agreement also provides for the Syndicate being permitted to prospect on the property, pending its acquisition. The banket outcrops frequently throughout this Concession, the strike of the reef being about North-East and South-West, and approximately parallel to the main reef at Tarkwa.

Upon the most Southerly block of the Taku Nasu (the option rights over which are held by the Gold Coast Explorers, Limited) a strong auriferous banket reef has also been exposed.

The Syndicate's Engineer states that the Kotra Verchey banket is very similar to that now being worked at Adjah Bippo, the property of the Wassau Company.

SIKA BIPPO AND EXTENSION.

The Syndicate's Sika Bippo Concession, which consists of 600 claims, has been extended to the East by acquiring another 300 claims, so that that property now adjoins the Wassau Company's Huni River Concession. Prospecting work has been proceeding on that property for several months past.

ASHANTI.

Having regard to the discovery of banket formation in the Ashanti district, on what is believed to be a continuation of the main reef at Tarkwa, the Directors have secured a lease of a property 2½ miles long by 2 miles wide. This is an extension East of a property known as the Abrokrum, and is about 15 miles East of Obbuassi. The banket on the Abrokrum Concession varies, but is of an average width of about 8 feet.

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Instant Relief.

THE DRAMA OF TO-DAY.

By M. CLEMENT SCOTT.

"FACTS AND FUN."

"A play! A play! My Kingdom for a play—or, rather, one hundred pounds down and five per cent. of the profits!" shouts Lewis Waller from the Lyric Theatre, according to the various newspaper reports.

Well, "imitation is the sincerest form of flattery," we are told, and it was about this time last year that I offered one hundred of the best for a sketch, and if only Lewis Waller is inundated with one quarter of the marvellous "pen-pourings" in three or four-act form which loaded up my study for weeks, he may live to rue the moment when he was reckless enough to brave such a deluge of black-and-white documents, in order to find a good and intelligent play.

No pen could describe a particle of the alarming mass of utterly impossible stuff hurled at my unfortunate head. I wish Waller better luck than travelled my way, at all events, and may he discover a "risk" to plank his hundred pounds upon which will bring him in a hundred thousand. "Here's to your Merry Christmas reading party, Will. You'll have no time for roast turkey and plum pudding this year—that's if you're the conscientious fellow I take you to be."

N.B.—If I remember rightly, my fare on the "jolliest day of all" consisted of a ham sandwich, a cup of coffee, and the gum from the envelopes I stuck down containing "brain-waves" I was returning to their anxious owners with many thanks and regrets. Alas! poor William!

ONE LICENCE FOR MUSIC-HALLS AND THEATRES.

Really, it's splendidly refreshing to know one's efforts have brought forth fruit, and that the sound advice given in JOHN BULL on November 27th, to the effect that it would be suicidal for music-hall managers to allow themselves to be dragged under the one licence for all rule, has been read, discussed, digested, and the outcome of it is that:—

"At a meeting of music-hall proprietors, convened by the 'Entertainments Protection Association' at the Hotel Cecil, on Tuesday, December 7th, it was unanimously resolved, 'That one licence for theatres and music-halls would be detrimental to both theatres and music-halls, and against public policy.'"

Hurrah for JOHN BULL! He never fails to top it with his tips! On with your armour, and at it again, then, J. B.

IN FAIRY-LAND.

The lucky children are going to have a glorious time of it this holiday season. Only think of it, you "tiny-tots," and try to realise the perfect round of gaiety which has been prepared for you greedy little beings.

Glance down the amusement columns of the daily newspaper, you "grown-ups," and see how much you have been thought about. Why you have been almost left entirely in the cold whilst the younger ones have been catered for as they never were before. What a fare! What a rich menu!

There's the great stage of His Majesty's stately playhouse—the leading theatre of the vast metropolis, filled with a crowd of small persons delightfully reigned over by Queen Pinkie, and her pretty fairy court. At the Garrick, once the home of serious drama, the magician's wand has again been waved, and in lieu of more significant works, "Where Children Rule"—surely one of the daintiest dishes ever prepared for baby minds to feast upon—is now being served daily.

At the Duke of York's Charles Frohman has once more "hotted up" "Peter Pan." I daresay he'd be quite as good "eaten cold." J. M. Barrie's repast would be delicious in any form.

Fantastic fun and "The Spirit of the Ring" have taken possession of the Vaudeville Theatre, and "The Glass Bottle" is drawing crowds to marvel over the wonderful "Pepper's Ghost" effects that no time will ever make less bewildering, or attractive to the eyes of the youthful.

At the Royal Haymarket, Maurice Maeterlinck's "Blue Bird" is fluttering its gorgeous wings vigorously—teaching much that is hopeful in life, unveiling more that is beautiful in art.

Presently, then, what with the promised pantomimes, the ever-increasing number of cinematograph shows, and the countless fascinating entertainments to be seen in London, there will be nothing left even for big people to grumble about, for instead of being soured by scepticism, they will be soothed by sweetness and charmed into a blessed state of contentment with pleasant memories.

"HENRY OF NAVARRE."

Miss Julia Neilson and Mr. Fred Terry re-open at the New Theatre on Monday, January 3rd, with the revival of "Henry of Navarre." The cast will be the same as the original with two exceptions. Mr. Philip Merivale, nephew of the late Hermann Merivale, will be the Duc de Guise, and Miss Phillida Terson will be the Marie Belleforet. Mr. Terry discovered Miss Terson during the autumn tour, and she shows great promise. She will make her first appearance as Marie at the New Tchatre.

What is Your Number?

See Page iii. of Cover.

WONDERFUL NEWS FOR THE DEAF.

New Publication containing Complete Description of Marvellous Discovery for the Cure of Deafness Given Away Free.

Few diseases that human flesh is heir to are so little understood as Deafness. The difficulty of access to the delicate internal membranes and organs which compose the whole of the complicated aural apparatus, and the very numerous diversities and complexities attending almost every case, have not only retarded the progress of Medical Science in this direction, but have caused patients themselves to accept the affliction with a species of mute resignation veritably pathetic to witness. Despite the use of electricity, ear-drums, and dangerous operations, the difficulty of hearing increases day by day, until Deafness becomes permanent and complete.

The progress of Science, however, though slow, is sure. And, at last, after years of research, and after the overcoming of innumerable difficulties, and the sweeping away of old prejudices and preconceived ideas, a new method has been discovered by which Deafness and every kind of ear disease can be surely and successfully treated by the patient in his or her own home.

The new discovery not only marks another notable achievement in the onward march of Scientific Progress, but brings fresh hope to every sufferer who at present impotently rails at the limitation of his powers, and has unsuccessfully tried any or all of the antiquated remedies still in vogue.

The current number of the "Otological Gazette," a publication devoted to the maladies of the Ear, Nose, and Throat, contains a full description of this new method of Self Home-Treatment. The origin, cause, and treatment of Deafness are clearly set forth and established, and a lucid description of the anatomy and physiology of the Ear is given, showing how this latest triumph of scientific investigation effectually and for ever cures this affliction, and leads to the complete restoration of the Sense of Hearing.

Every reader of this paper who suffers from Deafness, Head Noises, or Ear Disease in any form, is cordially invited to send their name and address to the publishers, The Aural Remedies Co., 119, Craven House, Kingsway, London, W.C. By return they will receive a copy of this publication.

ABSOLUTELY FREE.

The instantaneous success of this new method of treatment has been little short of marvellous. It will cost you nothing to read about it. Write to-day (a postcard will do) before the edition is completely exhausted.—[ADVT.]

LIPTON'S COCOA

The Most Nutritious.

Think for a moment of the real advantage of obtaining your Cocoa from a firm of world-wide repute, sole proprietors of Cocoa Estates, possessing the most recent and complete installation of Cocoa machinery, a firm whose unique position makes it possible for them to sell the very Finest Quality Cocoa at a price only half the usual charge for high-grade Cocoa.

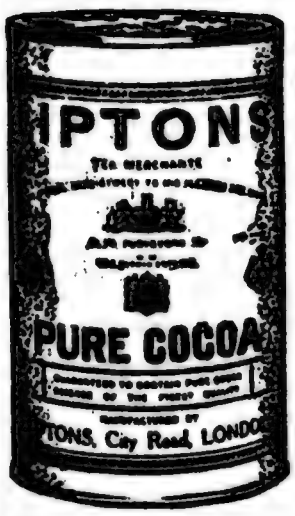
Such a firm is LIPTON'S. They alone occupy the positions of GROWERS, MANUFACTURERS and RETAILERS, a combination which assures the Public

FINEST QUALITY,

ONE PROFIT, and

ONE PRICE,

PER 1/6 POUND.



which is within the reach of all.

ON SALE EVERYWHERE

LIPTON LTD.,

Cocoa Planters, Ceylon

HOW I CURED MYSELF OF CATARRH

or CHRONIC CLOD IN THE HEAD

My FREE Booklet tells how you can be cured of this dangerous ailment by a simple Home-Treatment

NO CURE NO PAY.

For years I suffered from Chronic Catarrh, the result of a neglected cold in the head. Day by day I grew worse—with continual discharge from my nose, racking headaches, offensive breath, a constant dripping from the nose into the throat, loss of taste, smell, and hearing—until I gradually became a burden to myself and my friends. My ambition seemed killed, I used to wake in the morning, dull and dispirited—only to drag out a lifeless day to a sleepless night Life had lost it savours, and I was fast bordering on complete physical and mental collapse

when, by great good fortune, I was recommended to a simple home-cure, which not only gave almost instant relief to my distressing symptoms, but soon effected an absolute, permanent, complete cure.

THIS IS THE CURE

I tell you all about in my booklet, which I will gladly send you FREE, and which not only tells you how I cured myself, but relates the cause and symptoms of every form of catarrh, and simply and clearly shows how every sufferer can cure themselves in his or her own home without interfering with their daily occupations or duties.

ASK YOURSELF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. Is your voice husky?
2. Is the breath offensive?
3. Is the nose stopped up?
4. Does the nose discharge?
5. Do you snore when asleep?
6. Do crusts form in the nose?
7. Do you have sneezing spells?
8. Is the sense of smell affected?
9. Is there fulness in the throat?
10. Do you suffer from headache?
11. Do you often expectorate?
12. Do you have to clear the throat?

If so, you are in the grip of Catarrh, a disease which compels immediate attention, as it is not only progressive, but insidious. A neglected cold spells serious dangers unless checked right at the start. How many a case of gastritis, pneumonia, and consumption owes its origin to Neglected Catarrh!

MY GUARANTEE!

So confident am I that my system will do for others exactly what it accomplished in my own case, that I absolutely undertake to refund every penny of the small outlay necessary if it does not actually within **ONE WEEK** benefit the sufferer. There is no quibble or question about the return of the money. If, in your own opinion, the remedy has done you no good within that time, **YOU GET YOUR MONEY BACK.** No such offer has ever been made before, and it is only because of my absolute confidence in the marvellous efficacy of this simple home-treatment that I am able to make it.

NO CURE NO PAY!

If you are a sufferer you cannot afford to lose another day without learning all about this wonderful system of cure, in which any chance of spending money on a vain hope is entirely eliminated. I charge nothing for advice, which I am only too ready and happy to give at any time to any unfortunate sufferer who may require it.

Write to-day (a postcard will do) and my Booklet will be sent to you by return

ABSOLUTELY FREE.

ELMER SHIRLEY (ROOM 27),
6, Gt. James Street, Bedford Row, London, W.C.

JOHN BULL'S WOMENFOLK.

By Mrs. Bull.

Josephine's Jewels.

Some gauds that we have hitherto only seen in antique shops, namely, those lovely old necklaces, with enormous flat pendants and hanging fringes, are going to be a great rage, unless I am much mistaken, and for the simple reason that poor Josephine touched them with her magic hand The tropical, trinket-loving Creole, for all her curious failure to be dramatic in one of the most dramatic situations in the world, does seem to have had a special genius for inspiring succeeding women with a passion for everything she liked and wore The heavy dead-gold ornaments I speak of are lovely, with their great fringed pendants studded with gaudy-coloured jewels, and have an Eastern suggestion which goes well with the present classical style of dress. They have already "caught on" rather quickly, considering their quite extraordinary size and colouring. But, like all such bizarre things, they require living up to all round otherwise they are ludicrous Preferably the wearer should be dark or at least not fairer than the auburns, and undoubtedly she should manage to look languid if she can—very difficult to a modern! The necklaces also demand a pronounced quaintness of hair-dressing, preferably after the Josephine manner, and the dress with which they are worn should be almost absurdly simple, in straight Greek lines. Then the effect is good, not gaudy. But of a certainty we shall all run foul of these rules. I have already met a rather faded fair woman no longer young, wearing a gorgeous fringed pendant of rubies and emeralds three inches across, with a black stuff dress and a hat with a drab wing, at an afternoon party! Josephine did not rise up—like "Julia"—in protest, but it was enough to make her!

Kissing Women.

There is no doubt that their doom as a race has gone forth, those women who in ordinary society insist upon dabbing bleak little kisses on their female acquaintances. The modern girl has killed them. Her breeziness is quite as amiable a greeting, and far more sincere. I never can quite get away from the sense of Judas when a woman I don't know beyond a drawing-room urges upon me the dreary little peck. Instinctively I suspect her. And where you may see a whole circle of persons so greeting one another in public, there may you know that the scandalmongers are gathered together. I have seen it again and again in ordinary society, in clubs, amongst Church workers (Judas was a Church worker, by-the-bye), and at girls' schools. And the test has never failed. After all, there is a certain amount of Victorian humbug in the very idea of wanting to kiss on the cheek in public a woman you hardly know. There are so many things to avoid in the dive—her veil if she is wearing one; in some cases her complexion, if she is wearing one; and if you get too far round, her earrings scratch you. Added to this you must not crush her dress or any flowers she happens to be wearing, which makes the feat very gingery and difficult.

Dancing Dames.

We all read the other day, I suppose, the remarks of Lady Constance Stewart-Richardson on dancing as an athletic pastime, and her wish to see more women go in for such athletics, especially poor women, who, she says, have no opportunities at all for physical development. I fully agree with Lady Constance's earnest desire for this end, but I cannot help differing from her about opportunities. The little girls of the poor have the most splendid drills and exercises in the State schools, and the grown-up young women of the same classes have their swimming clubs, hockey clubs, fencing, cricket, and gymnasiums, some in connection with churches or polytechnics, some provided by borough rates. And up to about thirty they use them. After that, exactly like a higher class, they gradually drop such things, especially if they marry, and nothing will induce them to re-embrace them. But in the case of the very poor matron exercise is not wanting! She need not dance who dances attendance all day long on a huge family of children in a little home where every stroke of work must be done by the mother or not done at all. If you offered to teach her the most simple *pas* she would shake a weary head and smile sadly and say she was "Too old," perhaps at thirty-five. But it would be a blessing if Lady Constance's gallant example could rouse up to activity some of the inactive ladies in West End clubs who drive in a tightly-closed electric brougham with two wheezy dogs and then tell you that they are taking open-air exercise! A great improvement in temper and complexion would result.

Stamped Velveteens.

Why do the makers of velveteens stamp their stuffs so hideously on the back, especially now that dresses are worn unlined? Last week, at a rather crowded affair, I saw a lady who was perforce sitting too near to a fire to be good for her dress, which was velveteen, raise the side of the skirt a little to draw it from contact with the heat. The off-side was thus turned outwards and remained so, whilst all the spectators read just above the hem the legend, "So-and-so's superfine velveteens, warranted durable and silk-finished. Two shillings a yard." It was hard on the wearer, to say the least of it.

"Erasmic" SHAVING STICK

There is no excuse for buying foreign shaving soaps when "Erasmic" is both British and Best.

In Elegant Nickel Case.

Of all Chemists & Hairdressers.

SAMPLE STICK, six penny stamps. The Erasmic Co. Ltd. Dept. K, Warrington.

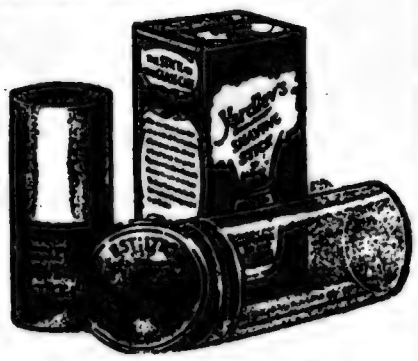
"The Stick in the Glass Case"

YARDLEY'S SHAVING SOAP

SAVES TIME—Because its flat creamy lather does not dry.

Discomfort—because it leaves the skin soothed and comforted.

Money—because it is so economical in use.



It is all British and the BEST on the market. 1/- post free, or from your chemist.

Free Sample sent on receipt of 1d. stamp for postage—

YARDLEY & Co., Ltd., Stratford, London, E., Dept. "A."

The Hidden Wealth of the World

is in opportunity. Opportunity comes to every man. It is often just at his hand, yet he can't see it. The real opportunists are the men who see and act. They tap the hidden wealth of the world. Of this latent wealth in opportunity there has been

£310,240

PAID TO CLIENTS

BY THE

NATIONAL SHARE EXCHANGE.

Every one of our clients is essentially an opportunist. He has seen an advantage, taken it, and benefited by it. He has seen that we are able to make money for clients. He has concluded that what we do for one client we can do for another. Why not for himself? Just so. All that was necessary to do was to translate thought into action. He has written. That was the beginning and the making of a client. From the very first our efforts are directed to keeping a client. That is our business—the secret of our success. We give particulars of a few new clients' accounts:—

Cheques.	E.B.	Amounts.
3,118	 12	0 0
2,952	 40	10 0
6,999	 50	0 0
10,971	 16	10 0
13,997	 7	0 0
14,018	 61	0 0
	£187	0 0

Cheques.	W.R.P.	Amounts.
4,766	 8	0 0
6,124	 6	18 4
6,897	 81	15 5
	£96	13 9

Cheques.	N R.	Amounts.
1,328	 6	18 8
2,587	 24	0 0
3,642	 19	16 6
7,108	 29	17 6
	£80	12 8

Cheques.	W.T P.	Amounts.
4,635	 12	0 0
5,049	 21	5 4
5,824	 11	15 0
6,940	 21	17 6
7,561	 10	0 0
7,578	 11	12 6
14,280	 75	0 0
7,119	 60	2 6
	£223	12 10

Cheques.	W.J.W.	Amounts.
1,361	 19	0 0
5,508	 18	0 0
7,710	 39	9 6
9,029	 50	0 0
9,748	 75	10 0
11,704	 65	7 6
12,499	 7	10 0
12,903	.. 100	0 0
13,185	.. 122	15 11
	£497	12 11

Cheques.	H.F.	Amounts.
2,119	 8	0 0
2,280	 6	0 0
2,420	 7	0 0
4,253	 6	0 0
4,970	 8	0 0
2,844	 16	0 0
6,240	 23	0 0
31,470	 19	7 6
31,473	 65	0 0
	£158	7 6

Cheques.	E.D.	Amounts.
1,372	 8	16 6
3,636	 29	10 9
6,103	 30	0 0
6,165	 19	19 0
6,255	 10	10 0
6,891	 52	0 0
7,239	 15	13 1
13,270	 21	0 0
14,376	 15	5 5
	£202	14 9

The National Share Exchange has always been satisfied to point out what it **has done** for clients. It is not flattering to the intelligence of the public to say what you **may** do for them. We leave that to our imitators. We point to concrete facts—the results achieved. Above you see a few examples. Every Cheque represents an Opportunist, but every Opportunist may have many Cheques. We make money for our Clients who by being such prove themselves Opportunists. In the first place they wrote us. You write to us. We can make money for you if you will let us. All you have to do is to fill in the Form at side.

APPLICATION FOR PARTICULARS.

TO THE SECRETARY,
NATIONAL SHARE EXCHANGE,
Great Winchester Street, London, E.C.

Please forward me (as my name is is not already on your books) ull particulars of your methods and system of money-making, as well as a list of cheques totalling £310,240, which you have paid clients acting on your advice and recommendations, together with a Search Form, so that I can verify any single cheque, or batch of cheques, that I may select.

NAME .....
(State Rev., Mr., Mrs., Miss, or Title.)

J. B. 212

ADDRESS IN FULL .....
.....
Please Write Distinctly.

DATE ... .

BULL'S EYES.

Notes of Interrogation:—
Will John Burns be caught Bean-ding?
Isn't Sir John Turney rather aptly named?
In Mr. Gladstone's case, does "S.A." mean "Super-Annuated"?
Can't Mr. Jebb take a "Straight" hint.
Aren't the Home Rule prospects very "promising"?
Does Mr. Kennerley Rumford now speak of "the good old *Times*"?
Were Lloyd-George's hearers "in tiers" also at Carnarvon?
Should Mr. Balfour's manifesto be written "manifest O"?
Isn't Richard Bell the victim of a ring?
Is Mr. Asquith a trifle sea-sick?

Suitable notice-board for the House of Commons just now:—'Standing Room Only."

"Mr. Burns to Lose Battersea," reads a headline. But it will be Battersea's loss.

"Love is the wine of life," says a contemporary. There seems to be an aitch missing somewhere.

"Life Ruined by a Sentence," we read. Nothing wonderful; we have known lives ruined by a word—Guilty.

The Rev. Charles Heaven, vicar of Banbury, guarantees the payment of old-age pensions in his parish. Good Heaven.

"The actor's place is on the stage," says Henry Ainley. The trouble with some is that they can't keep their place.

A Plymouth man who went to Bristol in search of work, pawned his false teeth to get there. Apparently they were out of work too.

Mr. Plowden says Marylebone Police Court is "a place where characters are lost, not found." We thought bad characters were often found there.

The Frenchman who threw himself out of the window because his wife reproached him with being late for dinner, was evidently determined to be a "late" husband.

Applications for the post of vicar at Dent, Yorks, numbered 126. Clergymen have to struggle for a living nowadays.

"The King's Cup" is the name of a new play. There ought to be something in it.

"A commercial traveller must be a nuisance," says E. Lyne. Of course, his calling makes him one.

"All insurance agents are liars," declared one of them at the Whitechapel County Court. A matter of policy, no doubt.

"Fire at a Fire Station," reads a headline. The men had their duties brought home to them.

A new publication, "Has Liberalism a Future?" seems to infer that it may be all past.

Mems. for Christmas Carvers:—
Don't ask a Suffragette to have a little stuffing.
Aviators will prefer the wings.
Comedians should be given the merrythought.
Never offer a Nonconformist the parson's nose.
Infants should be given the breast.
Mashers have a fancy for legs.
Musicians will like the drumsticks.

John Bull's Christmas Boxes:—
To Mr. Asquith.—A manageable Social-list.
To Mr. Balfour.—A putt-y medal.
To Mr. Lloyd-George.—A wipe in the eye.
To Lord Rosebery.—A very select party.
To Mr. Ure.—Some new fiction.
To Mr. Richard Bell, M.P.—A post to support him.
To W. T. Stead.—"I" for a second initial (sadly needed).
To political parties.—A dash for the poll.
To Mr. Cadbury.—A new "Standard" of morality.
To the Peers.—A run for their money.
To Lady Cardigan.—Kind memories.
To the Suffragists.—"Tube" season-tickets.
To certain politicians.—The Ninth Commandment, framed.
To the Irish party.—More "wait."
To Captain Scott.—A small "great."
To motorists.—"The Right of Way," by Sir Gilbert Parker.
To Mr. Plowden.—A cap and bells.
To Smyth-Pigott.—A "rear" trouncing.
To "Dr." Bodie.—A letter for a hospital.
To members of the John Bull League.—The Merriest of Christmases.

MONEY All entitled to Money on death of friends or

TO PROPERTY, LEGACIES, LIFE INCOMES, or REVERSIONS, under WILLS SETTLEMENTS, or CHANCERY.

NOTE.—Any person in Great Britain having expectations can obtain

ADVANCES FROM TRUST FUNDS.

Rates: £100 to £500 at 5, £1,000 to £5,000 at 4½, £10,000 at 4 Per Cent. Per Annum, 1 to 20 years. Pay interest only. Ladies, Country, Urgent and Large Loans Special. Loans paid off. Above securities our study. Money is ready. Why go to moneylenders? All advances arranged at above rates. Large Trust Funds ready.

PROSPECTUS POST FREE.

Call 10 to 4 (Phone 4,880 Wall) or write. Interview saves three days.

J. FAWCETT & CO., 103, CHEAPSIDE, CITY, LONDON (Private).

NEW TREATMENT FOR CONSUMPTION.

Sartolin is a remedy which has been proved to be effective even in the most desperate cases, and was recommended by specialists on Tuberculosis before the Berlin Medical Association.

The cure is achieved by means of the dry distillation of chemicals treated in conjunction with air.

Sartolin makes the application of narcotics unnecessary. No medicine is required, and it is equally effective as a cure for Asthma and Bronchitis.

The open air treatment has given but little, if any, effective results, whilst the facts cannot be disputed that the Sartolin method has been used with great success under the least favourable hygienic conditions of the patients. The majority of the latter belong to the working class, live in inadequate and scanty dwellings, were badly nourished, and had already been given up as incurable. Most of these patients were able to follow their daily occupations whilst undergoing the treatment.

To be had of all chemists, or from Sartolin, Ltd., 20, High Holborn, London, W.C.

We have received numerous letters from doctors, nurses and patients, which can be seen at the above address.

A SEASONABLE GIFT.

The Powerful and Popular

OLIVER TYPEWRITER.

Oliver Typewriter Co., Ltd., 75, Queen Victoria St., London.

Ask for Booklet 83.

FINANCIAL SUCCESS.

"THE LAW OF FINANCIAL SUCCESS" tells you in plain English how to make money and secure financial independence. It contains positive rules and instructions for every man and woman desirous of bettering their financial condition. The low price is but a fraction of its real value. Over 100,000 copies have already been sold. The book will be mailed post-paid promptly upon receipt of 6d.

6D.

SEND FOR IT TO-DAY.

The Fiduciary Co., 38, Century House, Queen Victoria St., London, E.C.

A TRUE GHOST STORY.

£5 Given for Best Solution of the Mystery.

See "VITALITY."

JANUARY NO.

HEALTH CULTURE, Monthly 1d. Order NOW. There will be a rush for it.

HEALTH, STRENGTH & VIGOUR.

Can give you the Wealth of Health, Mental Power, Self-control, Force of C aracter, Gracefulness of Symmetry, Vigour and Nerve Strength that is to be obtained from Nature's storehouse, and which you can possess only by co-operating with Nature and practically assisting to bring about the perfection to which you desire to attain. Our body has been given to us for use, a d there is not a single part of the body but is there to serve some purpose, and as it gets work to do, so it develops, and its strength increases, but allow it to remain idle, and it becomes weaker and weaker until it becomes practically incapable of fulfilling the duties belonging to it. A glance at the illustrations given on this page will show some of the effects of neglecting to put to their proper use some of the muscles we possess, the top figures represent those who have not taken a course of the

REBOUNDER SYSTEM

of Physiological Movements for Ladies and Gentlemen, *Nicholson Registered*. The central figures represent the effects of a six months' course, whilst the lower figures show what a change is brought about after 12 months exercising. These are no fancy illustrations. Hundreds of testimonials from the once stout or thin, stooping, emaciated, etc., people who have now been restored to a natural state, can be seen at below address.

This is quite a unique method for building up permanent strength and health, both of body and mind, it is the only system in existence based on the principles by which this is brought about, and on receipt of a post card with name and address, full particulars will be forwarded free of all cost to all readers of "John Bull."

ADDRESS—JONATHAN NICHOLSON, M.D., The Health Culture Co., Ltd., Dept. "J," 22 Budge Row, London, E.C.

To Lovers of Good Tobacco

One of these Blends will prove to be the very Blend you've sought.

"TWO HOURS" Mixture 5d. per oz.
Cool, Fragrant, and absolutely Pure.

"ALDERWOOD" Mixture 5½d. per oz.
In Three Strengths. Our Latest Success.

"LUNTIN" Mixture 6½d. per oz.
In Three Strengths.
The Blend that made us famous.

"MOUND" Mixture 1/4 per 2 ozs.
Blended from the finest leaf procurable.

All the Best Tobacconists supply the above, but should you have any difficulty, send stamps to the amount for Samples to the Manufacturers,

THOMSON and PORTEOUS, EDINBURGH.

ALEXINE.

MANY PEOPLE ARE FORCED TO EAT TOO MUCH in order to eat enough.

What you eat—how much you eat—or even how much you digest—is not the whole question.

By stimulating your appetite and aiding your digestion you may be only overloading your system with waste products.

ALEXINE will enable you to "get all the good out of your food." It is neither a food nor a medicine, but an aid to Nature.

The active principle of ALEXINE is free phosphoric acid, which acts upon the otherwise insoluble phosphates in your food and in your system, and enables your brain, your nerves and your muscle to take them up and make use of them.

Obtainable through all Chemists at 2/9 and 4/6 per bottle or from sole British Agents at same prices, post free.

THOS. CHRISTY & CO.,
4, 10, 12, Old Swan Lane, London, E.C.

"WINCARNIS"

THE WORLD'S GREATEST RESTORATIVE FOR COLDS, CHILLS AND INFLUENZA.

Wincarnis contains three of the most valuable nourishing elements—Extract of Malt, Extract of Meat, and Choice Wine. Anyone who has dealt with illness or disease knows the great value of each of these when given alone, but in their combination and in such proportions as in Wincarnis they are the most ideal form of nourishment and—as any doctor will tell you—to get rid of a cold "feed," or, in other words, get as much nourishment into the system as possible.

The Warm Glow of Comfort that Wincarnis gives to a cold, chilled, or exhausted person—the great strength it imparts after exhausting labour—has been over and again testified by the public and medical profession.

These are weighty reasons why Wincarnis is the best tonic for colds, chills and influenza because it supplies the greatest amount of nourishment that can be assimilated and digested in the shortest time. Many attempts have been made to imitate Wincarnis, but it has never yet been improved upon.

By Royal Appointment

TEST IT FREE.

Send your name and address and three penny stamps (to pay cost of carriage) to Coleman and Co. Ltd., 238A. Wincarnis Works, Norwich, and you will receive a trial bottle of delicious wine tonic free. Mention JOHN BULL.

AFTER THE FREE TRIAL you can buy Wincarnis at any Wine Merchant's, and at Chemists' and Grocers' who have a wine license. Wincarnis is now sold by the glass at all Railway Station Refreshment Rooms; also at most hotels and high-class Licensed Houses.

XMAS CHEER. Your friends would appreciate a bottle of Wincarnis for Xmas.

JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[THE EDITOR *replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.*]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when sending cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when referring to previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag," AND ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write names and addresses upon the back of their work. The Editor can accept no responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPES ARE SENT FOR THE PURPOSE. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL.

The EDITOR *can express no opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

"SYMPATHISER."—We had no intention of misrepresenting anyone. It is only natural that the Tories should say that they don't want Socialists to embarrass Liberals.

"WEARY" (Muswell Hill) thinks we should get on much better if our leading politicians could be sent off on a tour round the world and get lost for a few years.

W. H. R. (Swansea) wants to know the salary of the Prime Minister, "just to settle an argument." We are sorry to see him indulge in the reprehensible habit of betting, but the answer is £5,000.

E. L. (London, N.E.) writes that he knows the managing director of Taylor and Co., provision merchants, Vigo Street, W., to be "a gentleman whose affability is only commensurate with his equable temperament, and who may sometimes assume a subservient position rather than assert himself at the expense of his domestic felicity." What a neat compliment!

"COUNTRYMAN" (Finsbury Park) inquires about Messrs. Glyn, estate agents, Argyll Place, Regent Street, who profess to supply paying guests, and require a fee in advance. He says that they have smart letter paper and announce their hours of business as ten—three, but their little back room is usually locked up, and that there is an announcement on the letter-box: "Interviews by appointment only."

A. E. H. (Margate) tells us that there was an accident outside the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital at Margate, when a butcher suffered concussion of the brain and a boy broke his collar-bone, but they were left on a shop floor for three-quarters of an hour until the ambulance arrived, whilst the hospital authorities offered no assistance. He says that there is a board outside the hospital announcing that it is "supported by voluntary contributions," but that every patient has to pay £6 a month unless he gets a letter from a subscriber, when his fees are reduced to £2 8s. "A. E. H." derived no benefit from his treatment at the hospital, and told the doctors so, with the result that he has been warned off.

"NOZAZA" (Zululand), answering another correspondent, writes that the male of a swan is called cob, and the female pen. Dr. Johnson, however, gives cob as "a sort of sea-fowl, called also sea-cob, the sea-mew," and only gives pen as "an instrument of writing, a feather, a wing, and a small enclosure."

"A CONSTANT READER" (Haslar).—We have no prejudice against explorers or against anybody else, but we do not see any advantage to this country in preceding Yankees or Germans at the South Pole.

L. I. (Brixton) read a conflicting statement about Dr. Johnson in JOHN BULL and in another paper. He actually writes to ask which is true!

E. L. B. (Liverpool) inquires about the National League of the Blind, as he cannot find it in the Directory.

J. H. (Cardiff) says the children at the Deaf and Dumb Institute need not have been dumb ones.

MOTHER SEIGEL'S SYRUP

Do you ever realise how very little will make your stomach lose tone and strength? If you neglect your meals, or dine, "not wisely but too well"; even if you start worrying about anything your stomach and liver are almost sure to get out of order. Many a stomach, indeed, has lost the power to digest food, through a change in the weather!

Now, how is it with you? Is your stomach too weak to digest foods? Is indigestion punishing you with pains or wind in the stomach, headaches, biliousness, constipation, or a "run down" feeling? If so you need the digestive tonic—Mother Seigel's Syrup. The medicinal, herbal extracts of which it is made, tone and strengthen the stomach and gently stimulate the action of the liver and bowels. This is the natural and sure way to cure stomach and liver troubles, the sure way to get nourishment from food, and the sure way to have health and strength. Test it yourself!

STRENGTHENS WEAK STOMACHS

STIMULATES SLUGGISH LIVERS
CURES INDIGESTION

The 2/6 bottle contains three times as much as the 1/1½ size

A New and Remarkable Treatment for RHEUMATISM AND GOUT.

Write at Once for Particulars.

"They say it gives immediate relief."

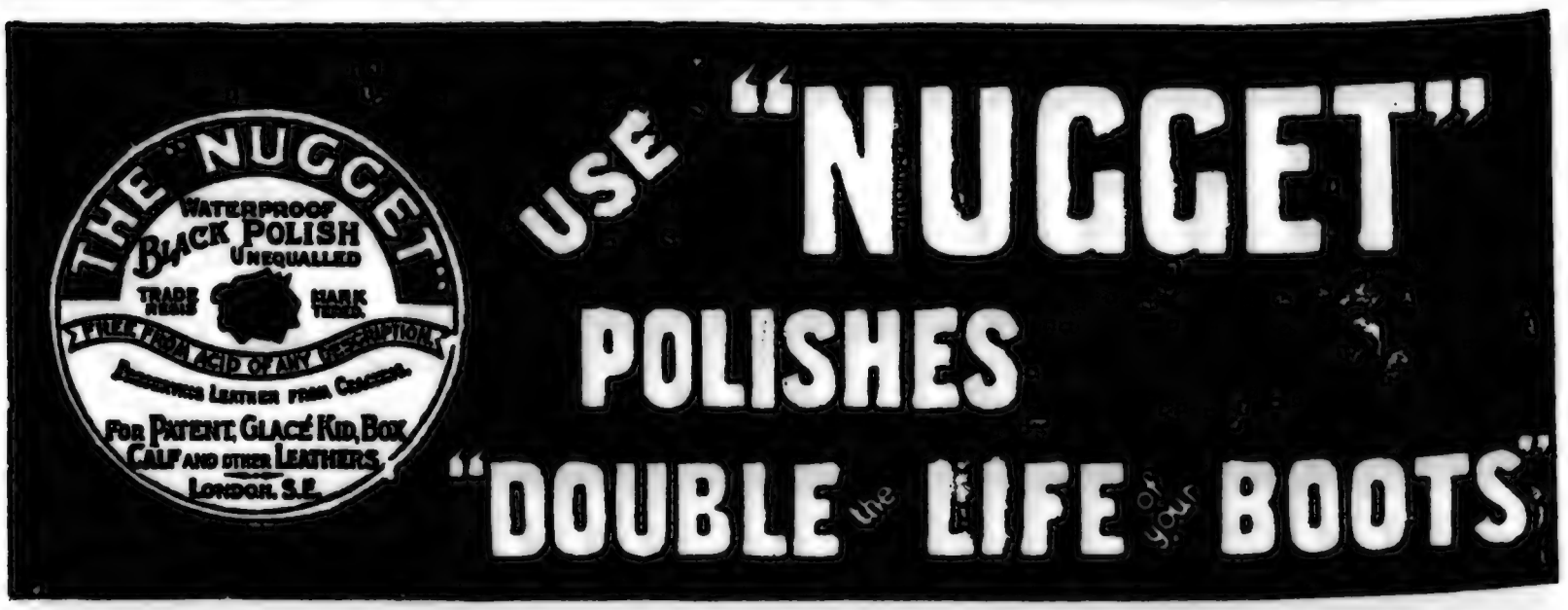
If you are a sufferer don't hesitate to become acquainted with this marvellous cure for Rheumatism, Gout, Sciatica, Lumbago. It is so sure, that we have never yet received a complaint that it has not given satisfactory results. We want every person suffering from this the most painful complaint of human ills, to try this new method, and there is no reason why they should not do so. Doctors in all parts of the world have tried to cure this complaint, but at last a successful method has been discovered. *This is quite a new treatment,* and does not entail the slightest inconvenience. You have no obnoxious drugs to take—no cumbersome instruments or electric appliances to use, but just a simple home method which will effect a long felt desire—a cure.

It's Rheumatism.

Mr. J. Downing, of County Cork, writes: "I beg to say that your Rheumatic treatment cured me. I am able to go about my ordinary occupation as well as ever, after trying a good many different treatments."

You can obtain the same results.

FREE Just write enclosing stamp for postage asking for FREE particulars of our proved remedy for Rheumatism and Gout, and same will be sent you by return. You cannot do better than try that which gives such remarkable results. Write to-day—A. RICHARDS, 25, Hart St., London, W.C.



"LABOUR" (Bristol) asks if he will be running any great risk in giving up a permanent clerkship to accept a superintendency of a Labour Exchange, which is "probationary in the first instance." It seems to us that the matter entirely rests with himself. If he is self-confident, he may decide on a gamble.

A. H. W. (Deptford) wants us to start a column of sweating firms. But we could not do the subject justice in that space.

W. S. H. (London, W.C.) protests against the "ridiculous piffle" in a speech by Miss Marie Corelli, and says it was hardly complimentary of that lady to address her audience in the same tones as she uses to her cats

C. E. D. (Buckai sends a warning against the Art Supply Company, of 48, Edgware Road

M. P. (King's Cross) encloses a denial of the statement that Chatsworth tenants have been forbidden to keep fowls, but says that some of them have been requested not to show cards in their windows. This he considers a piece of impertinence on the part of a big landowner

R. (Gunnersbury) asks how a young lady who had both arms amputated is able to write. Perhaps with her teeth or her toes.

"WANTS TO KNOW" (Ireland).—No. Jim Crow does not yet live in Park Lane.

G. W. S. (Norbury) informs us that an impartial deputation, consisting of a magistrate, a lord of the manor, and a vicar, investigated the charges made in a book called "The Escaped Nun," and found no foundation for them.

J. W. F. (Liverpool) says that, if he can find the mugs to finance him, he will nail the Union Jack, or any flag they like, to the South Pole. He will distribute fans and tracts to the natives, kill all the mosquitoes, found a school of Antarctic medicine, and make the climate salubrious and inhabitable. Yes, but where are the mugs?

"E. SENIAB" (British Columbia) wants us to devote a page to Canadian news! Is there any?

"FITTER" (Upton Park) is an engineer's fitter, who finds it difficult to compete with German fitters who have obtained their knowledge in the municipal libraries of their country. He says most of our public libraries are full of trashy novels, while little or no attention is paid to technical works, but he finds the Patent Office library in Chancery Lane very useful.

T. A. B. D. (Crickhowell) argues that it is possible to believe in taxing foreigners and, at the same time, to shout for the memory of Cobden. He reminds us that Cobden once said that, if foreigners did not adopt Free Trade, England would have to reconsider her position. But that is not precisely the same thing as alleging that it is possible to tax foreigners.

T. H. (Kilburn) complains that many provision merchants refuse to give farthings as change. This appears to be their usual custom.

"CAPILLARY" (Glasgow).—We certainly deprecate blackmail by lawyers, who trade on the fact that their victims dislike publicity.

"ONE WHO TEACHES THE DEAF AND DUMB TO CHEER" (Manchester) says that deaf and dumb children, educated by means of the oral system, are capable of cheering. But is it, then, correct to allude to them as dumb?

"AFAMO" (Southampton) wants to start a society for the investigation of frauds.

"A CONSTANT READER" (London, S.E.).—We do not know of any privileges attaching to birth in the City of London—except a Cockney accent.

"ANTI-BLITHER" (Thornton Heath) says that the next time he is asked the elementary question, "Who pays the duty?" he intends to reply by asking, "Is marriage a failure?" But that is not half so simple.

T. E. (Lower Edmonton) says the music hall managers are responsible for Bodie's tricks.

B. P. (Walsall) says it is not Prince Olaf's fault that his photograph appears so often in the papers. But he might wear a mask.

"MERE MALE" (Folkestone) wants us to tell him how to induce females to keep out of the smoking-room of his boarding house. He complains that "a mere man is unable to give a female a good kick." He might try an inferior brand of tobacco.

"YELNATS" (Ealing) says the London General Supply Association, 72, Finsbury Pavement, E.C., tried the chain trick on his little girl of eleven.

J. J. (Caerphilly) agrees with us about Pigott, but denies that Joseph Smith ever advocated polygamy.

S. W. S. (Denver) says the New York papers boast that no other flag was considered fit to fly with "Old Glory," whereas the only flags to be seen on the Thames Embankment and on Prince's Street, Edinburgh, are American.

H. G. (Draycott) won 35s. from J. Beresford, Flushing, but cannot obtain payment, though he still receives circulars boasting about Beresford's punctuality.

R. M. (Lowestoft) says the glut of mackerel at Lowestoft was due to rough weather, which prevented people from shaking the fish out of the nets, as is usually done.

P. M. M. (Durham) says that, if he lived near Spaxton, he would ignore all laws of the land, and even sacrifice his freedom, if only he could do something to break up such disgusting places as the "Abode of Love." What an Anarchist!

Several readers complain that Douglas has not yet sent the December number of "Profit and Pleasure." Why complain?

(We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.)

MESSRS. CHARLES LETTS AND CO. send us specimens of their diaries—all excellently got up. Their latest feature is a combined pencil and sharpener—an ingenious and useful device, while the self-opening tablet is also deserving of praise. Their art metal calendars are also noteworthy, and are achieving a deserved popularity.

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

See Page iii. of Cover.

NASAL CATARRH,

Asthma, Bronchitis, Phlegm and Blood-spitting.

The safe, speedy, and radical cure of chronic coughs, acute colds, nasal catarrh, the stopped up choking feeling, phlegm accumulation, bronchitis, asthma, blood-spitting difficult breathing, and all diseases of chest, throat and lungs can be effected with certainty by Veno's Lightning Cough Cure. This pure and safe family remedy does not simply check or smother like many so-called preparations, but actually REMOVES THE CAUSE of the trouble and effectually cures the diseased conditions which produce it. Veno's Lightning Cough Cure is guaranteed free from opium in any form, is safe for the youngest child, and whilst curing, strengthens the whole bronchial and digestive mechanism. It is admittedly a scientific remedy endorsed and used by doctors, and is to-day the family doctor in thousands of British homes.

Mrs. Hurst.

A LADY'S CURE.

MRS. J. HURST, 37, Byrom Street, High Park, Southport, writes:—"I thank you most heartily for the marvellous cure wrought in my case by Veno's Lightning Cough Cure. I suffered for over a year from a distressing bronchial cough which nothing could apparently relieve, and I got so low and weak from coughing and spitting phlegm and blood that I could scarcely walk. Doctors said I had chronic bronchitis, but nothing did any good, and I despaired of ever being better. At last I tried your wonderful cough cure, and the first bottle relieved me, so I continued to take it, until now I am perfectly cured, as well as ever I was."

Ask for Veno's Lightning Cough Cure, 9½d. 1/1½, and 2/9, of all chemists.

VENO'S LIGHTNING COUGH CURE.

TOO OLD?

No, Sir, not too old! Merely shabby, out of shape, may be, and baggy at the knees but send the suit to us—we pay carriage one way—and we will clean and press it—in the Achille Serre way—so that it will again find favour in your eyes.

It will only cost you 3/9.

Write now for our booklet "Clothes and the Man"; you will find it useful.

We have Branches and Agencies all over the Kingdom and will give you address of nearest on application.

Achille Serre, Ltd.

White Post Lane,

Hackney Wick, London, E.

P10 e East 1205

RACING NOTES.

By W. LOTHIAN.
("*Larry Lynx*" *of* THE PEOPLE, *and* "*Magpie*" *of* THE GLOBE.)

Eulogy of Owners.

Despite everything said to the contrary, there is no doubt whatever but that nine owners out of ten are only *too* anxious to win with any of their horses *whenever* they can. The unfortunate part is that it is the tenth who gets his horses leniently handicapped and wins a very big percentage of the races. Nowadays, unless an owner backs his horse (I won't say "only tries") but once or twice a year he has *no* chance whatever. To make racing pay a man doesn't want to win often, but just occasionally, and at the *right* time. I know more than one small owner who keeps three or four in training and doesn't win more than three races a year, but reckons to gain £8,000 or £10,000 at it. It is, in fact, patience, plus a little luck, that is the keynote to success on the turf: 99 owners out of 100 have not the patience, but are in a hurry to win at once, if not *every* time.

Prophetic.

Naturally, a blank until Boxing Day, at Kempton. One of the three-year-olds will win the Chiswick Plate, and if the ground be at all firm I prefer little WINKBOURNE to Tokay, but it is difficult to anticipate many days ahead as to the happenings among the three-year-olds themselves in the Richmond Plate, for they are beating each other in turn—improving about 4st. in 10 days. In the Hurdle Handicap they are such a bad lot, that if LISTER has taken to jumping at all, he must about win, and, having missed interim engagements, it looks as if Mr. Leopold Rothschild, as usual, wants to win on a holiday date for the little public. Whichever Gore runs, SHADY GIRL or, more likely, the nicely treated BARBED HEAD, should take the Hampton Handicap, and JOHNSTOWN LAD the Corinthian Steeplechase. Despite his Newbury defeat, SEE SEE will, on the second day, prove that he IS the best of all the recruits in the Twickenham Plate, while I should believe in SMITHFIELD'S winning the Sunbury Handicap, for he is nicely treated and will have "come on" a good deal since Newbury, by the interim work.

A BOON TO SMOKERS

Use our "**CARBONETTES.**" They will give you a cool, dry, sweet, healthy and free smoking pipe, and no more Nicotine. Can be used in any pipe. If you cannot procure them at your tobacconist's, send 2d. for packet of 12 Pure Carbon Pellets to—

CARBONETTE CO., 12, MINSTER RD., CRICKLEWOOD, LONDON, N.W.

Everybody who has ever been in

EGYPT,

or can be interested in its scenery, will be delighted with the superbly produced wonderful Photographs in this week's

"THRONE AND COUNTRY."

BIRKBECK BANK

Established 1851.
SOUTHAMPTON BUILDINGS, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.
2½ PER CENT. INTEREST
allowed on Deposit Accounts, repayable on demand.
2 PER CENT. INTEREST
on Drawing Accounts with Cheque Book.
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ALMANACK with full particulars, POST FREE.
C. F. RAVENSCROFT, Secretary.

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The Great Out-of-doors Festivals the fine Steeplechase Meeting at

KEMPTON PARK.

Military Band. All Classes Catered For.

Constant Specials from Waterloo Direct to Grand Stand from 10.5 a.m. till 12.10 and other South Western Stations.

BUCHANAN'S WHISKY "BLACK & WHITE"

MAKES YOU CHEERFUL AND KEEPS YOU BRIGHT.

"TADDY'S **GRAPNEL** MIXTURE"

A BLEND OF CHOICE TOBACCOS.

Price 6½d. per one Ounce Packet,
„ 1/1 „ two „ Tin
„ 2/2 „ four „ „

FOOTBALL FOOTBALL

£100 FREE SELECTION.

Also £5 to any Client picking 9 Winners. This is not a competition. There is absolutely no division, all Winners receive in full.

Send 1d. Postcard for Football Coupons and full particulars.

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Kindly Mention Paper.

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Why wait for death of friends when you can have an immediate advance which, if preferred, can be repayable when legacies paid?—Apply H. and R. PEEL, 42, New Oxford Street, London, W.C., and 85, Lord Street, Liverpool.

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POST FREE. (Registered No. 319,132). POST FREE.

Equal to any **30/-** Skate. Direct from the Factory. **British Ball Bearings.** High-class finish. The **Lightest, Strongest,** and **Best.** Every pair **Guaranteed. Money Returned** within 3 days if not approved.

STATE SIZE OF BOOT, LADY OR GENTLEMAN.

HANDSOME LEATHERETTE CASE ONLY 1/6 Extra.

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Stock Exchange Operations thoroughly explained, also Call Options. How to open an account with limited risk. How to avoid Broker's Commissions. Contains Highest and Lowest Sales for last 15 years. Gratis from Publishers—

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DO YOU WANT MONEY
on Note of Hand alone from £10 to £1,000?
IF YOU DO,
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CHARLES STEVENS & CO.,
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AND YOU WILL GET IT.
All business conducted confidentially and on plain straightforward principles. Repayments spread over 12 months if desired. An application entails no expense whatever unless the loan is actually completed.

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PROVIDES
Life Assurance without Medical Examination.
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(Established 1870.)
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Deposits of £10 and upwards received as under:—
Subject to 3 months' notice of withdrawal 5 p.c. per ann.
" 6 " " 6 " "
" 12 " " 7 " "
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In order to give everyone an opportunity of thoroughly testing this renowned preparation we are distributing a certain number of
LARGE TRIAL BOTTLES,
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with Return of Purchase Money.
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Assets Exceed £10,000,000. JAMES H. SCOTT, General Manager and Secretary.

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OUR WEEKLY BALLOT FOR 100 HELPERS AT A GUINEA APIECE.

Every copy of JOHN BULL bears upon its cover a distinctive number, and every week ONE HUNDRED of such numbers will be drawn and published on this page. These 100 numbers will be announced in four weeks' time.

To each of the holders of copies of JOHN BULL *of specified date* bearing any of such numbers we will, upon production of a sufficient portion of the cover to identify *the date* and number, pay the sum of ONE GUINEA, in return for his (or her) using his best endeavour for one week to increase our circulation.

The following Claims have been received for the issues of October 9th, 16th, 30th, and November 6th and 13th:—

J. LAWRIE, 2, Lyne Street, Edinburgh. (No. 190568—Oct. 9th.)
F. H. COLBECK, 11, Wylen Street, Honor Oak Park, S.E. (No. 215420—Oct. 16th.)
JAMES W. MANN, Holly Cottage, Hartle, Belbroughton, Stourbridge. No. 15266—Oct. 30th.)
W. H. PAXTON, 8, Hawthornevale, Newhaven, Leith. (No. 10868—Nov. 6th.)
ROBT. W. S. NIXON, 3, Comely Bank Road, Edinburgh. (No 193545—Nov. 6th.)
JOHN BAILEY, 1, Vivian Road, Peckham Rye, S.E. (No. 173780—Nov. 6th.)
J. J. WATTS, c.o. The Donegal Tweed Co., 149, Friargate, Preston. (No. 177692—Nov. 13th.)
S. WALKER, 84, Norfolk Street, Rotherham, Yorks. (No. 203275—Nov. 13th.)
GEO. BETSON, 28, Hartington Road, Southend-on-Sea. (No. 12038—Nov. 13th.)
ROLAND S. MILLER, 20, Victoria Road, Crawley, Sussex. (No. 129904—Nov. 13th.)
ROBERT SEMPLE, 6, Kaiser Street, Dennistown, Glasgow. (No. 166650—Nov. 13th.)
W. GREEN, 5, Eastcheap, E.C. (No. 227241—Nov. 13th.)
HUBERT D. COOK, 29, Boones Road, Lewisham, S.E. (No. 181752—Nov. 13th.)
HUGH G. CALLAWAY, 7, Brook Street, Kennington Road, S.E. (No. 92947—Nov. 13th.)
MRS. LAWRENCE, 4, Great Cambridge Street, Hackney Road, N.E. (No. 30810—Nov. 13th.)
R. H. HARRIS, 17, Church Path, Acton Green, Chiswick, W. (No. 137641—Nov. 13th.)
HENRY D. MORGAN, 12, Thomas Street, Bilton Ferry, Glam. (No. 207003—Nov. 13th.)
C. POULTON, 159, Praed Street, Paddington, W. (No. 264804—Nov. 13th.)
B. H. TOMS, 19, Stimpson Avenue, Northampton. (No. 164816—Nov. 13th.)
G. H. WATKINS, 32, Boston Park Road, Brentford, W. (No. 105871—Nov. 13th.)
P. J. BLAKE, 23, Marion Street, Splotlands, Cardiff. (No. 154613—Nov. 13th.)
F. C. SIMPER, 23, Radnor Road, Horfield, Bristol. (No. 202696—Nov. 13th.)
S. FARRENS, 17, Copeland Road, Govan, Glasgow. (No. 53062—Nov. 13th.)

The following are the 100 numbers for our issue of November 27th:—

4612	41097	103449	151667	273981
10590	45481	104498	152659	275442
12359	46132	105140	153155	279258
13314	49880	105578	157250	297854
14525	53264	105918	165782	299939
14844	60663	113058	166278	321797
15036	65262	113554	170495	325528
20252	71514	114041	172728	329961
22662	74609	114682	179540	330032
24533	81791	114767	184190	377091
27338	83313	116062	188894	389541
27913	86162	117633	205414	395864
28194	86480	117934	216276	397791
29940	87408	119342	223027	410050
30269	90229	119430	223523	429767
30648	97068	125736	231429	429840
32705	97922	134834	243182	430568
34648	101103	140006	243678	430767
40367	102405	141676	244267	438553
40439	103235	147898	255287	445991

THE 100 NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR ISSUE DATED JANUARY 29th, 1910, PUBLISHED JANUARY 27th.

Lord Whitehead to Lord Blacklock.

Lord Whitehead: "I say, Blacklock, this blessed Budget is turning my hair grey!"

Lord Blacklock: "So it would mine, only I use Lockyer's Hair Restorer."

Large Bottles,
Sold Eve ywhere **1/6**
or privately packed from Bedford Laboratory, London, S.E.

DON'T LOOK OLD.
Use
LOCKYER'S HAIR RESTORER.

ECZEMA AND ALL SKIN AILMENTS

are completely cured by

SULPHOLINE LOTION

which directly attacks all forms of Eczema, Eruptions, Pimples, Acne, Spots, Black heads, or Disfiguring Rashes, leaving the skin in the soft, clear, supple, attractive condition designed by Nature.

Bottles Everywhere, 1/- & 2/9.

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After Using.

SULPHOLINE SOAP
IS THE BEST, SAFEST, PUREST, AND MOST EXQUISITE SOAP FOR THE TOILET.
Tablets Everywhere, or by post for 6d.

PEPPER'S SUPHOLOIDS. The greatest of all Blood Purifiers. Of vast assistance when using any Sulpholine Preparations. 1s. Bottle.

SULPHOLINE SKIN POWDER. The Queen of Dusting or Nursery Powders 6d. and 1s.

FREE TRIAL.—A Sample of Sulpholine Lotion, Sulpholine Soap, Sulpholoids, and Sulpholine Powder will be sent on receipt of 3d. in stamps. Mention "John Bull." Address: BEDFORD LABORATORY, LONDON, S. E.

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and

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NERVOUS PROSTRATION

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The recognised source of Health, Strength, Energy, Nerve, Mental and Bodily Vigour. The cure for Influenza, Neuralgia, Prostration, Indigestion, Bad Appetite, Insomnia, Langour, Instability. Large shilling Bottles Everywhere. A generous Sample Bottle sent gratis on receipt of 2d. in stamps (mention "John Bull") to Depot.

Bedford Laboratory, London, S.E.

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